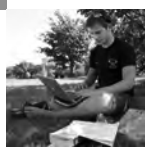
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

UNDERGRADUATE PROSPECTUS 2021

OXFORD IS...

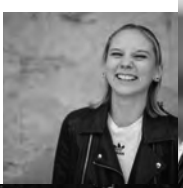


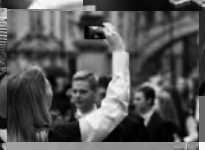
“”

Oxford is full of possibilities, allowing you to develop your academic work alongside pretty much anything else you could possibly be interested in... it's really about realising the University's potential as much as your own. Oxford is well and truly what you make it...

JESSICA

...WHAT YOU MAKE IT





BE OXFORD
BE OUR FUTURE
BE YOU

OXFORD IS...

...YOUR COMMUNITY

4 worldwide
6 for life
8 for people like you
12 your city

...AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

14 about your studies
18 legendary libraries
20 amazing artefacts

...SO MUCH MORE

22 just about the work?
24 for sport
25 on stage and screen
26 volunteering
27 making music
28 speaking up

...FOR YOU

30 about you
- **31** as a disabled student
- **31** as a care leaver
- **32** as a mature student
- **33** as an international student

OXPLORE www.oxplore.org

@studyatoxford

@oxoutreach

www.youtube.com/Oxford

ox.ac.uk/itunesu

OX.AC.UK/UGP/STUDY

OUR COURSES

36 choosing what to study
38 admissions requirements
40 A–Z of courses

COLLEGE LIFE

142 what are colleges?
144 which colleges offer your course?
146 college facilities
148 do you choose?
149 A–Z of colleges
182 accommodation

HOW YOU APPLY

184 application timeline

WHAT IT COSTS

186 fees and funding

FIND OUT MORE

188 Oxford outreach
191 read this
192 maps

With thanks to all our students who volunteered to appear.

Go to ox.ac.uk/2021feedbackprospectus to let us know what you think of our prospectus and you might win a £100 Amazon voucher.

Would you like our prospectus in another format?

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

Details are correct at the time of going to press in January 2020. Any updates or changes to information can be found on our webpages: **ox.ac.uk/study**

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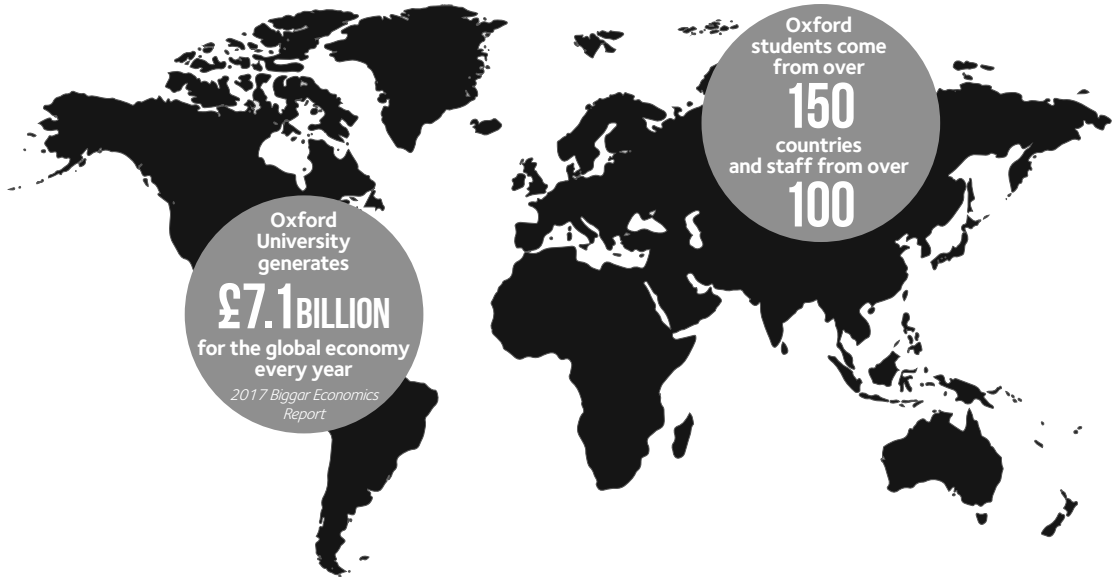
OXFORD IS...
WORLDWIDE

Oxford University forms the heart of a beautiful and historic city in the south-east of England, yet it thrives on connections with virtually every country in the world. For centuries, the impact and influence of our researchers and graduates have made Oxford world-famous. Today, more than 150,000 Oxford graduates live and work in almost every country outside the UK, whilst our academics' research spans the globe and tackles many issues of worldwide interest.



SOME OXFORD GRADUATES' JOBS

Australia: public affairs officer at Sydney Botanic Gardens

Benin: entrepreneur revolutionising haircare

China: television presenter for programmes on Chinese society, politics and culture

Lebanon: independent curator for museums and galleries

Mexico: environmental conservation project manager

The Netherlands: advisor to the European Patent Office

USA: research scientist at NASA

Zambia: consultant at the World Bank

AND SOME INTERNSHIPS YOU COULD DO AS A STUDENT

Australia: medical intern at Prince Charles Hospital

Brazil: intern at the National Institute for Space Research

Ecuador: intern for Project Galapagos

Germany: intern at the Academy of European Law

Japan: intern for the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

Jordan: intern for UNICEF Jordan

Myanmar: intern at UNESCO

Tanzania: intern at Nasio Trust

Erasmus+

Please note that the future of the Erasmus programme is currently uncertain because of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the EU. Read the latest at: ox.ac.uk/erasmus

TIME TO TRAVEL

- Students on most courses will spend their term times in Oxford to benefit from the University's teaching expertise and resources.
- However, the terms are shorter than at most other universities, so there is lots of time left to experience life abroad and make international connections through paid internships, travel grants, research opportunities, summer schools and exchange programmes.

EXCLUSIVE INTERNSHIPS IN OVER 40 COUNTRIES

- Our **Careers Service** (see page 6) provides our students with exclusive access to hundreds of summer internships; many of these are based abroad and are a great way to learn about another country and its people, language and culture.
- Doing an internship is also a recognised way to build up employment skills and help you decide what you might enjoy doing when you graduate.
  careers.ox.ac.uk

YOUR WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY

Oxford has over 330,000 graduates and almost 200 alumni groups networking across the world. As an Oxford graduate you can benefit from lifelong careers advice and professional networking both online and in person.
www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

LEARN THE LANGUAGE BEFORE YOU GO (OR JUST FOR FUN)

You don't have to be doing a language degree to learn a language whilst studying here. Our **Language Centre** runs courses in various languages, from beginner to advanced, to support your studies, career or travel plans. Plus you can improve your academic English on our summer courses before you arrive as well as whilst on course.
www.lang.ox.ac.uk

> Oxford: a great group of interesting people who come from all across the world and yet can relate to each other so easily. **MATHEW**

See more on careers: page 6

OXFORD IS...
FOR LIFE

You might expect that a degree from one of the most famous universities in the world would open doors and it does. You will have a choice of exciting careers and further study opportunities when you finish here.

A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY

Studying at Oxford triggers a lifetime of opportunity, both personal and professional. Throughout your student life, and long after, our **Careers Service** can provide you with expert and tailored support with your career goals. This, together with your Oxford degree and networks, will help you be a serious contender for the job you want.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Studying at Oxford will help you develop impressive skill-sets that are highly sought after by employers. Oxford graduates have a very wide choice of careers. This is important because it means you can confidently choose the course you really love, not just the one that you think will give you the best career prospects.

Read about our courses: page 36

£25,000
median salary of recent graduates

Oxford has the largest volume of
WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH
in the UK
2014 Research Excellence Framework

WHAT NEXT?

If being involved in cutting-edge research or spin-out companies is for you, then you might be one of our many graduates (31%) who go on to do further study. Those who choose to start their careers immediately go into many different sectors:

Education	13%
Health and Social Care	11%
Banking and Investment	8%
Academia and Higher Education	6%
Advertising, Marketing and Communications	6%
Consultancy	6%
Government and Public Services	6%
Consumer goods and retail	5%
IT and Computing	5%
Accountancy, Insurance and Financial Services	4%
Charity, Development, Not for Profit and Think Tanks	4%
Law*	4%
Media, Journalism and Publishing	4%
Sport, Leisure and Tourism	4%
Arts and Heritage	3%
Other sectors	3%
Energy and the Environment	2%
Engineering and Manufacturing	2%
HR and Recruitment	2%
Scientific Research and Development and other research services	2%

*the majority of students pursuing law as a career go into further study after graduating, which is currently a requirement to qualify as a solicitor or barrister in the UK.

Source: 2017 Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) Survey (taken six months after graduation).

CONNECT WITH YOUR CAREERS SERVICE

- 10 annual careers fairs so you can explore your options and meet employers
- 200+ employer events each year run by our Careers Advisers and visiting recruiters
- 5,500 one-to-one careers advice appointments
- over 12,000 vacancies advertised on our website
- hundreds of local and global internships sourced exclusively for Oxford students
- business and consultancy programmes to develop commercial awareness and experience
- lifelong expert careers advice and job opportunities for all our graduates

> The Careers Service really is great. They're so helpful and have some amazing resources.
>
> **ANNA**

BE PROFESSIONAL

Today's competitive and global job market means that work experience and employability skills are important components of early career success. Our Careers Service can help you identify and develop some of these skills through our skills programmes.

Don't forget there are also hundreds of societies, teams and clubs to take part in. Apart from being a lot of fun and a great way to make friends, this can also help you demonstrate employability skills.

Business Awareness	**Initiative**
Communication	
Creativity	**Planning**
Leadership	
Self-Management	**Teamwork**

Are you an entrepreneur at heart?

Develop your entrepreneurial and employability skills through a range of amazing resources and opportunities, from social enterprise awards, entrepreneurship conferences and start-up incubators, to the Oxford Foundry space, innovation challenges, and idea competitions.

See Enterprising Oxford at **eship.ox.ac.uk**

190 RESEARCH SPINOUTS

– more than any other UK higher education institution

£600 MILLION

global turnover from spinouts

2017 Biggar Economics report

STAY IN TOUCH

You will have the chance to meet people from very different walks of life at Oxford. Some will already be recognised experts in their field but many will be students like you, who may go on to have significant influence in their area of interest or career. As an Oxford graduate you will become a member of this global network for life. **ox.ac.uk/alumni**

OXFORD IS...
FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Our students and staff come from all kinds of backgrounds. This helps make Oxford one of the most exciting learning environments anywhere.

> I am very happy my scepticism regarding how much I'd fit in did not keep me from applying as I have had one of the best years of my life. **CHRISTY**

COLLEGE LIFE

Your college provides a welcoming and safe environment from the minute you arrive. College staff and students from other year groups do everything they can to help you settle into their ready-made and close-knit community.

Read more on colleges: page 142

> Go for it! If you're from an ethnic, racial, religious minority or if you come from a low income household – don't be intimidated. **RUMANA**

> I was a bit nervous applying as I'm the first in my family to attend university but my time here has been incredible. **HOLLY**

> There's a niche and place for everyone – yes there are some posh people but that's only a small part. There's also sporty people, groups who love drama, people who don't go out and love a quiet evening in, people who like to party every night, people who play Quidditch... Basically, whoever you are and whatever you like, you'll find people like you. **DANIELA**

Oxford students come from over
150 COUNTRIES
– academic and research staff come from over 100

20%
of all our undergraduate students have declared a disability

31%
of all our students identify as black or minority ethnic

FEELING AT HOME

Oxford students have academic ability and intellectual curiosity in common – but that is pretty much it! There are around 23,000 students from across the globe at Oxford, with an amazing range of backgrounds and interests, so you will meet people like you and not like you! This is likely to be one of the most enjoyable and liberating aspects of your student life here.

University can be daunting at first, and joining one or more of the hundreds of groups, clubs, societies or campaigns at Oxford is definitely one of the easiest ways to make friends, feel at home and build a support network. In addition, our Equality and Diversity Unit and Oxford University's Student Union (Oxford SU) work hard to make sure that everyone feels welcome and has a voice. These are just some of the groups and campaigns in areas you may be interested in:

- **Gender**: the Oxford SU Women's campaign for women and students who identify wholly or partially with the term woman
- **Ethnicity**: the Oxford SU Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE)
- **LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer)**: Oxford SU LGBTQ+ Campaign and LGBTQ+ Society
- **Religion and belief**: worship facilities and societies for a wide range of faith groups

- **Disability**: support for disabled students including the Oxford SU Disability Campaign (DisCam)
- **Care leavers and looked-after children**: one-on-one meetings at open days and support throughout your time here.

See also pages 22 and 28

Oxford SU
Class Act Campaign

Oxford SU Class Act Campaign was launched in 2016 for working-class, first-generation, state-school educated, and low-income students.

Oxford SU
LGBTQ+Campaign

www.oxfordsu.org/campaigns

YOUR RIGHT TO RESPECT

Our community is committed to everyone being equally respected and protected from harassment.

PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP

Oxford terms are exhilarating, but can also be intense. It's important to know that there are lots of people who can help if times get tough or you find yourself running out of steam. You can always talk to friends and there is also trained and professional help available:

In colleges

- tutors
- college parents (students in the year above)
- student welfare reps
- staff welfare officers
- chaplains (for people of no or any religion)
- doctors
- college nurse
- college porters
- peer supporters (trained by the Counselling Service), Rainbow Peers and Peers of Colour

From the University

- University Counselling Service
- Oxford SU Student Advice
- Disability Advisory Service
- Oxford Nightline – a confidential listening service run by trained students, for students

> There's no type of student at Oxford. It's beautifully diverse and you will find your place. **ADITI**

> I love the family feel of the college. It's not too big but not too small. I know everyone in every year and we are all genuinely friends. **ANNA**

BE PART OF THE CHANGE...

At Oxford, we want everyone to feel welcomed, valued and respected. Some groups are still under-represented in our academic community but this is changing. The University is already attracting more black and minority ethnic students than ever before (more than 22% of our 2019 undergraduate intake). By 2023, we intend that 25% of our intake of undergraduates will come from UK backgrounds currently under-represented at Oxford. That's why we are running two exciting new access programmes called **Opportunity Oxford** and **Foundation Oxford**. These new initiatives, together with:

- our expanded **UNIQ** access programme,
- our **Target Oxbridge** collaboration,
- the hundreds of activities we run across the UK, with schools and communities (see page 188),
- our enhanced use of contextual data (learn more at: **ox.ac.uk/context)**,

will help ensure that an Oxford education is a realistic goal for anyone with academic talent and commitment.

If you like the sound of this change and want to be a part of it, then please help us pick up the pace and apply!

...BE PART OF OXFORD

OXFORD IS...
YOUR CITY

A vibrant student city with lots to see and do, Oxford is within easy travelling distance of other major cities including London.

THEATRE, ARTS AND CINEMA

- two theatres plus lots of informal performance venues including colleges
- art through the ages in museums and galleries such as Modern Art Oxford
- five city centre cinemas from art-house to Odeon

PARKS, RIVERS AND WOODS

- two rivers run through Oxford, both passing through lovely parkland in the city centre
- a little further out and you can lose yourself in the woods at Wytham or Shotover

MUSIC AND DANCE

- live at the O2 Academy and New Theatre plus loads of gigs at smaller venues and pubs
- if nightclubs are your thing, there's pretty much a different one for each night of the week

ox.ac.uk/ugp/livingin

FOOD AND DRINK

- serious spices and international groceries up the buzzing Cowley Road (near to lots of student housing)
- delicious and chic bars and restaurants for different tastes and budgets
- quaint and atmospheric pubs, sometimes with live music or the odd quiz
- usual café chains but also some student-focused independent ones
- ice cream, burgers and kebab vans day and night
- mouth-watering dumplings (amongst other things!) at nearby food markets

SHOPPING

- designer labels, noodles and nail bars at the huge new Westgate Centre
- a good variety of high street chains
- quirky fashion to pungent cheese and delicious chocolate in the famous Covered Market
- lots of good charity shops, including the original Oxfam
- several big bookshops as well as second hand ones

Oxford is a wonderful city to spend time in. I love walking or running in the University Parks and around the meadows with friends, followed by coffee in one of the many lovely coffee shops!

REBECCA

OXFORD IS...
ABOUT YOUR STUDIES

FAMOUS FOR A REASON

The teaching, research and learning opportunities are exceptional, and why Oxford is the No. 1 university in the world.*

** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019–20.*

YOUR STUDY ESSENTIALS:

- nearly 250 courses to choose from, organised by over 30 faculties and departments
- personalised, regular tutorial teaching with subject experts
- your own cross-disciplinary academic community in one of over 30 colleges or halls
- exceptional study and research resources
- over 100 libraries and 5 world-class museums, historic gardens and collections
- over 1,500 laboratories

> As a physicist you get to work in the undergraduate laboratories. Some of the labs are pretty awesome, as examples: wiring up a mini computer, working with lasers and using modelling software on the same data that won a group of scientists the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe. **SAMUEL**

YOUR TEACHING IS...

- some of the best in the world
- at the heart of our students' success
- through both your college and subject department
- individual – via college tutorials usually with one or two others and normally once or twice a week
- in groups – usually in small classes, department lectures and/or labs
- via regular contact hours
- rigorous and demanding
- inspiring
- supported by your independent study

> I think the teaching is outstanding. The quality of the lectures, tutorials and practicals is incomparable. I have really benefited from the attention and challenges of small-group tutorial learning, which has driven me to work harder and learn more than I thought I could and still enjoy it. **JOE**

YOUR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Here everyone is a member of a college as well as their subject department(s) and the University. Our colleges are at the heart of Oxford's reputation as one of the best universities in the world. In this way, you will have both the benefits of belonging to a large, renowned institution and to a small and friendly academic community.

PERSONALISED TEACHING

College tutorials are central to teaching at Oxford. They offer a level of personalised attention from academic experts unavailable at most universities. During tutorials (normally lasting an hour), college subject tutors will give you and one or two tutorial partners feedback on prepared work and cover a topic in depth. Such regular and rigorous academic discussion develops and facilitates learning in a way that just isn't possible through lectures alone. Tutorials also allow for close monitoring of your progress so tutors can quickly provide additional support if necessary.

> The tutorial system is incredible and unmatched by any other form of education delivery. **ADITI**

> I really enjoyed the small size of tutorials and the ability to discuss a topic really in depth. **SHALALIA**

> Having to come up with a cohesive and convincing argument each week is challenging but it's taught me a lot about how to question what I come across, and how to 'look beyond' – it's a skill that will last a lifetime. **REBECCA**

> All the students, tutors and staff care deeply about what they do and are always around to talk about it.
> **MAHMOUD GRADUATE**

> I was so excited by the idea of studying the subject I loved with the absolute world experts in the field, and at Oxford, you have the opportunity to learn from the very best. One of the things I love most about the college tutorial system is the close contact you have with tutors; you really feel that they're invested in you as a person, and it's amazing how much confidence you build up within just a few tutorials. **LILY** (from Oxford SU's *Alternative Prospectus*: apply.oxfordsu.org)

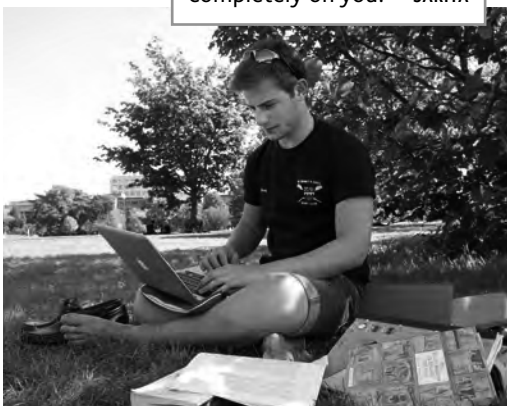
See
colleges: page 142
courses: page 36

INDEPENDENT STUDY

This is a significant part of all Oxford degree courses. If you are doing an arts or humanities degree, you are likely to have a couple of hour-long tutorials a week as well as lectures and classes but will be expected to manage most of your time yourself. Typically, science courses are more structured as they include time in labs or on fieldwork. Whether you're writing an essay or preparing a problem sheet or an experiment, you'll be given a reading list to start from. Books you will need can be found in your college or department libraries, or both. Wherever you are, you can always connect to the University's extensive online collection.

See more on libraries (page 18).

> It initially felt like a bit of a culture shock as the onus to motivate yourself... is completely on you. **SARITA**



> Each week I was required to complete one or two several-thousand-word essays, ticking off sources from the reading list as I went by. I was encouraged to read beyond the facts, to make my own assumptions and to prove and disprove theories. Another shock for me was that now – for the first time – my opinion actually mattered. Rather than simply regurgitating the textbook, tutors were asking me what I thought. **ADAM**

GET CONNECTED

Access Wi-Fi via eduroam and tap into 300km of optical fibres that link our researchers to the rest of the world.
it.ox.ac.uk/getting-started

> The amount of work is large, but it's just the right amount to exploit our potential. **RIMING**

> The work is also more intense than I thought it would be, not just in terms of volume, but the questions that we get asked are seriously challenging and very different to anything we would have been set in school. It was initially a huge shock, but I've definitely got used to it – it's such a rewarding way of learning, you really do learn a lot. **NABS**

WORKLOAD AND TIME MANAGEMENT

An Oxford degree is full-time. On average our students will spend around 40 hours a week studying, which still leaves lots of time for fun, friends and extra-curricular activities.

ASSESSMENT

Oxford courses are mainly assessed by exams, although depending on your course this may also be through projects, extended essays or dissertations, and there might be an oral exam.

See page 36 and your course page (page 40 onwards) for more on assessment.

Read student diaries: apply.oxfordsu.org

Most of our students spend

30 – 44 HOURS

studying each week

Oxford SU 2016 Student Welfare Report

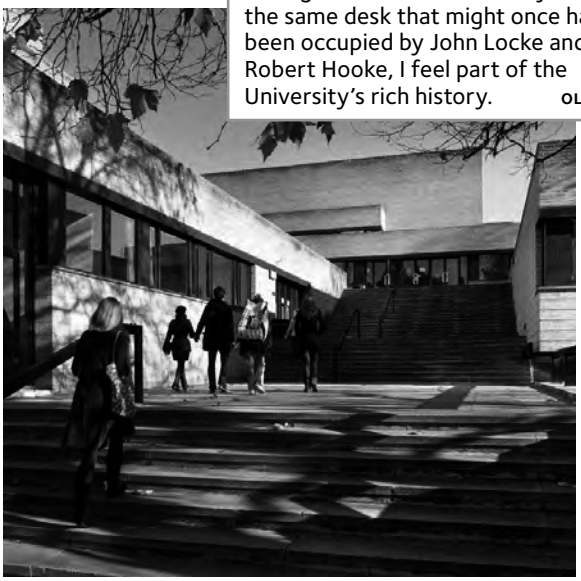
See 'just about the work?' pages 22–28

OXFORD IS...
LEGENDARY LIBRARIES

Take anyone into one of Oxford's iconic Bodleian Libraries for the first time and their reaction is often 'wow!'. As a student here, you will be able to work in some of the best-resourced and most awe-inspiring places to study anywhere in the world.

- Other excellent universities may have one or two libraries; Oxford has over 100, making it the largest university library system in the UK.
- This minimises the number of books students need to buy.
- Oxford's Bodleian Libraries house over 13 million items, and are second in size in the UK only to the British Library in London.
- Our graduates often cite the libraries as one of the greatest privileges and pleasures of studying at Oxford, and home to some of their best memories.

> Sitting in the Bodleian Library at the same desk that might once have been occupied by John Locke and Robert Hooke, I feel part of the University's rich history. **OLINGA**



View the Bodleian's online collection: digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

STAY CONNECTED

Oxford's network serves 40,000 users in term time and carries enough data to stream 21,000 HD films every day.
it.ox.ac.uk/getting-started

SOLO
SEARCH OXFORD LIBRARIES ONLINE
solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

m.lib
Library assistant for Oxford freshers:
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/assistant

YOUR LIBRARY ESSENTIALS:

- over 13 million printed items
- 80,000+ e-journals
- 400km of shelving
- digital services
- extensive access to Wi-Fi
- lending and reference libraries
- at your department and in your college
- college libraries are often open 24/7 during term time
- help from expert subject librarians
- proper training on how to use the libraries and access materials
- world-class research collections

> I like to work in the café of the Social Sciences Library. It's so light and airy and just the right level of noise plus great coffee nearby!
>
> **FREYA**

> I like working in my department library – the Taylorian – because it is beautiful, bright and not too intimidatingly big.
>
> **CHLOE**

> The Radcliffe Science Library is also next to the Pitt Rivers Museum which makes a good spot to take a break. There is also a prayer room nearby which makes it a convenient study location.
>
> **AMINA**

> I love working in my college library... It has a beautiful painted ceiling and huge wooden desks in bay windows. It feels very Harry Potter-esque.
>
> **SIAN**

The Bodleian Libraries are one of six legal deposit libraries in the UK, which means that they can request a copy of any item (including online and digital) published in the UK or Ireland.

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Listen to the sounds of the Bodleian: ox.ac.uk/soundsofthebodleian

BODLEIAN LIBRARIES TRIVIA

It was the inspiration for the fictional library in Philip Pullman's ***HIS DARK MATERIALS*** trilogy.

Holds the largest collection of Tolkien materials in the world including hand-drawn illustrations for **THE HOBBIT.**

SIR WALTER RALEIGH made a donation of £50 to the library in 1603.

It is a popular film location and appears in three **HARRY POTTER** films. The Divinity School features as Hogwarts' Hospital Wing and Duke Humfrey's Library as the library.

The library's most expensive single acquisition to date was a copy of the draft manuscript of **JANE AUSTEN'S** unfinished novel *The Watsons.*

It is home to the greatest collection of works in **SANSKRIT** outside Asia.

One of its greatest treasures is the conducting score of **HANDEL'S MESSIAH.**

CURIOSITIES INCLUDE: a chair made from the timber of Sir Francis Drake's ship *The Golden Hind* and a locket containing Percy and Mary Shelley's hair.

Oxford LibGuides for subject research: http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Bodleian i-skills workshops maximise your search skills: http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops

See
About your studies: page 14
Museums: page 20

OXFORD IS...
AMAZING ARTEFACTS

Oxford's four famous museums can be enjoyed by everyone for free, but for many academics and students they are also a valuable study resource. These world-class museums house rare treasures from the natural world, as well as amazing art and artefacts.

The University's museums are used particularly extensively by students on the following courses:

Archaeology and Anthropology, Biology, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, Classics, Earth Sciences, History and History of Art

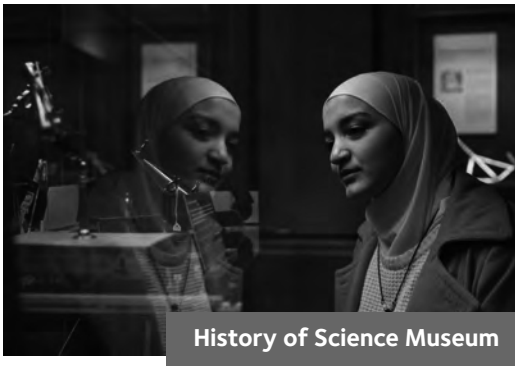
OXFORD'S BIG 4

Together these hold over 8.5 million objects and specimens amid spectacular and award-winning architecture:

Ashmolean Museum
www.ashmolean.org

Oxford University Museum of Natural History
www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk

Pitt Rivers Museum
www.prm.ox.ac.uk



History of Science Museum
www.hsm.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum
www.obga.ox.ac.uk

LABORATORIES WITH LEAVES

Oxford has both an arboretum and a botanic garden, which together hold over 6,000 types of plant, some of which are grown nowhere else.

Engagement Programme
www.ashmolean.org/university-teaching

ASHMOLEAN UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Students from a wide range of departments come to the museum as part of their degree course, to engage with objects through handling sessions, gallery talks and seminars. Recent collaborations include:

- medical students closely analysing Renaissance portraits to develop an eye for diagnosis
- Earth Sciences students examining historic engravings of volcanic eruptions to collect details for classification
- students of medieval literature handling Anglo-Saxon metalwork of the kind mentioned in epic poems and texts of the period.

> I visit the museums on spare afternoons sometimes, especially the Ashmolean since it has stuff relevant to my course, and I also volunteer to take groups of primary school students round the museums. **SARAH**

Wytham Woods
www.wythamwoods.ox.ac.uk

RESEARCH IN THE WOODS

Oxford owns and maintains 1,000 acres of ancient semi-natural woodland: a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and one of the most researched pieces of woodland in the world, with over 500 species of plants, a wealth of woodland habitats and 800 species of butterflies and moths.

Bate Collection
www.bate.ox.ac.uk

OVER 2,000 INSTRUMENTS

The magnificent and much-loved Bate Collection of musical instruments dates from the Renaissance.

Thinking with Things
www.ashmolean.org/thinking-with-things

> The physical pieces of paper, lying on the table encased in protective layers, are striking as objects in themselves... It is all too easy to picture these sheets propped in Raphael's workroom.
>
> **HOLLY**

OXFORD IS...
JUST ABOUT THE WORK?

One of the many myths about Oxford is that students spend most of their time studying and there is no time to have fun. Alongside your ready-made college community, you can pick and choose from over 400 clubs and societies to create your own amazing Oxford experience. Extra-curricular activities are not only lots of fun and great for your social life; they build your skills too – complementing your academic and career opportunities.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

"As a student, you dictate your own university experience and, before you know it, find your own rhythm, which allows your study to be combined with other things that matter to you. **JESSICA**

"Love to be sitting in a park listening to some music and reading a good book. These days I do a fair bit of running, Oxford is great for this with lovely big parks and proximity to the countryside. I've always done a bit of sailing and I'm happily continuing this with the University squad. **MATT**

"Take advantage of the opportunities here – there are clubs and societies for every taste, great speaker events every week, lots of opportunities to learn a new skill, meet new people and score CV points. **ANYA**

ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities
oxfordsu.org

FRESHERS' FAIR

Oxford Student Union's (Oxford SU) Freshers' Fair at the start of your first term will ensure you know the extent of your options. Whatever your interest, there will be a club or society for you, whether it is in music, sports, literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, national and cultural groups, volunteering or something else. You can become involved in any club or society that interests you, whatever your experience or background. If you still think something is missing, you are welcome to set up your own.

TOAST, TEA AND BAD TV

With so much going on, you might wonder whether anyone ever relaxes! Actually many would say this is essential to surviving the hectic terms. Your college community makes it very easy to slow down for a while and just relax with friends if you want to. Watching TV or having a pyjama day are popular options.

See
about colleges: page 142
choosing a course: page 36
managing workloads: page 17

> Nice meals with friends, hanging out in the sunshine talking about philosophy. There's a casual ice hockey club that meets twice a week in the evenings – also a great way to blow off steam.
>
> **MAHMOUD**

> Science societies were the greatest part of my Oxford student experience. Attending seminars and meeting speakers, then running events myself was an exciting way to kick-start my career in science.
>
> **NESSA, GRADUATE**

> Play a bit of hockey, or just lie down and watch some iPlayer or something. Pubs and the college bar are great as well, just to hang out with friends and 'forget' about work for an evening.
>
> **CALLUM**

OXFORD IS...
FOR SPORT

Do you want to enjoy a sport you love, try something new or keep active? No problem. At Oxford, you will have the chance to play for fun, play for your college or compete for the University. Or maybe you just want to keep active, fit and healthy? Multiple college and University facilities and Oxford's beautiful green spaces make this easy.

SPORT AT OXFORD IS:

- over 80 sports clubs to choose from
- relaxed competitions between colleges
- an annual Varsity series (against Cambridge University) and blues awards for our student athletes
- a recently extended University sports centre (see map on page 192)
- British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) fixtures, leagues and championships
- casual physical activity and great-value health and fitness offers through your college or at the University Sports Centre

Blues Performance Scheme

Providing strength and conditioning, nutrition, psychology and injury treatment to our highest-performing teams and individual student athletes.
www.sport.ox.ac.uk/performance
www.sport.ox.ac.uk/varsity

- college facilities including: squash courts, gyms, boathouses, football pitches and cricket pitches
- affordable through subsidies and student pricing

The **Sports Federation** provides guidance, support and funding to recognised Oxford University sports clubs. It also coordinates the **Accessible Sport** programme which is delivered by University sports clubs and local partner organisations and provides inclusive opportunities for sport and physical activity.
www.sport.ox.ac.uk/accessible-sport

Get in touch

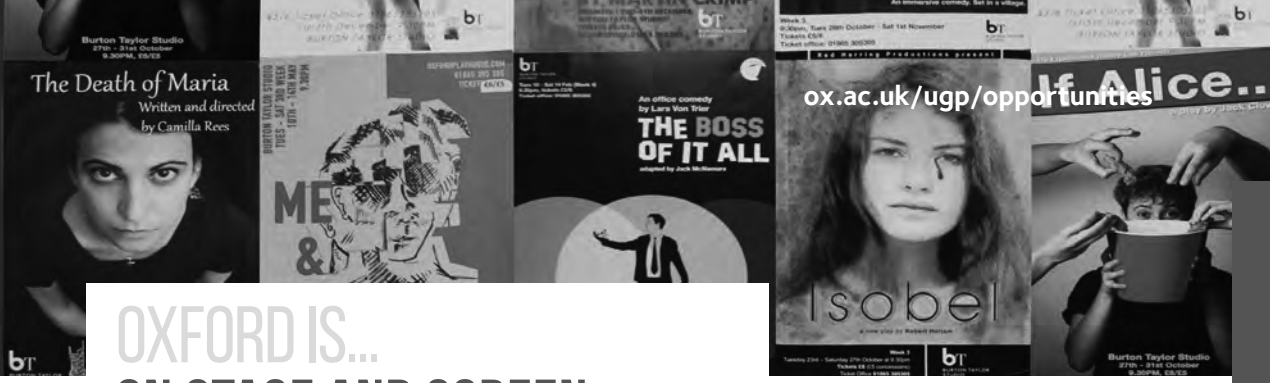
If sport is a priority for you at any level, then contact our Sports Federation now.
www.sport.ox.ac.uk/contact-us

WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

"I have been a member of the Swimming Club for all three years. I have swum for my entire life; it complements my studies well and helps me de-stress. **LAUREN**

"Ultimate Frisbee is the best (temporary) cure for every essay crisis, no matter how severe. **NOÉMI**

"If you enjoy sport, the collegiate system of the University is ideal. Students of absolutely any ability can get involved in college sport in some form, and if you're good there are always the blues teams (the University-wide sporting teams), which compete with other universities. **MILO**



ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities

OXFORD IS...
ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Whether it's film or theatre that interests you, the vibrant drama scene at Oxford offers amazing opportunities to aspiring actors, writers, producers, directors and technicians.

OXFORD DRAMA IS:

- around 30 shows each term
- a huge choice of theatre spaces: from college gardens, bars and theatres to the 50-seater Burton Taylor Studio to the professional 650-seater Oxford Playhouse (five student productions a year)
- new writing and modern drama
- classical plays
- musical theatre
- improvised comedy from Oxford Imps
- nurtured by the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS)
- stage production from Tabs Are For Flying (TAFF)
- sketches and stand-up from the Oxford Revue
- filmmaking with the Oxford Filmmaking Foundation
- BAME Drama Society

"If I'm not rehearsing, you may find me in a club demonstrating my unique interpretation of the verb 'to dance'. Depending on who you ask, my dancing could be 'hilarious', 'terrifying', or just 'awful'. I like to think of it simply as enthusiastic – or enthusiastically awful, anyway.

RICHARD

Oxford graduate film stars include Hugh Grant, Felicity Jones and Riz Ahmed and Gemma Chan.

The Oxford Revue has spawned some of Britain's best-loved writers and comedians, from Alan Bennett and Rowan Atkinson to Stewart Lee, Armando Iannucci, Josie Long and Katy Brand.

OXFORD IS...
VOLUNTEERING

Loads of volunteering opportunities can be found through our Oxford Hub, which runs projects, skilled placements and events.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- have a positive social impact in your local community
- develop valuable new skills: communication, leadership and teamwork
- meet other like-minded students
- do something completely different
- get involved in the wider city of Oxford

NOT MUCH TIME?

If you are worried about taking on too much, then micro-volunteering (for an hour a week) might be for you.

SOME CURRENT PROJECTS

Branch Up – gives young people access to opportunities and extra-curricular activities.

LinkAges – helps students engage with the elderly community in Oxford and the issues facing an ageing population.

Teach Green – teaches primary school children about environmental projects.

Code Club – gives children the opportunity to learn to code in volunteer-led sessions.

FELLOW – teaches English to overseas workers.

OxCo-op – makes ethical food accessible and affordable in the local community.

FUNDRAISING IS FUN

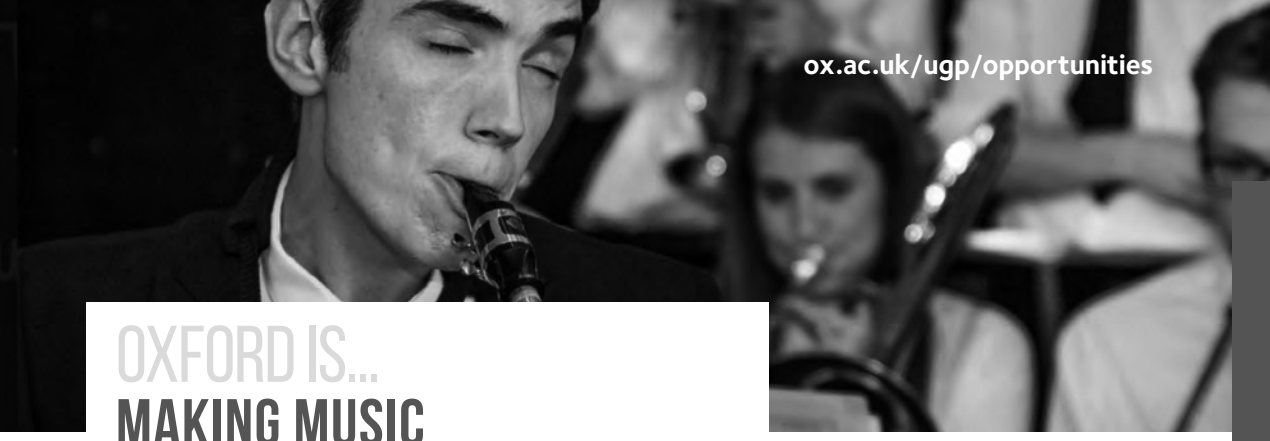
Join Oxford SU's Raise and Give (RAG) and fundraise through some great events for four charities chosen by our students. From hitchhiking around Europe and beyond in Jailbreak, to walking the runway at the RAG Fashion Show, to dancing the night away at the RAG Ball, there's something for everybody.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

"I'm a member of the RAG Ball committee...which is proving to be really challenging but also very fulfilling. As well as that, I am also co-directing a play. **SARITA**

"I'm now the managing editor for a student magazine, raising money for homelessness, leading a human rights forum and planning events for the ACS [African and Caribbean Society]; all things I'd never thought I'd do at university. **KALYNA**

"I'm a volunteer with Schools Plus and oversee their A-level project at a local school. I joined to do as much as I could to allow everyone an opportunity to perform to the best of their ability and apply to study their dream course. **JASMINE**



OXFORD IS...
MAKING MUSIC

You don't have to be studying music to make it part of your Oxford life. From classical to jazz through indie, rock, drum 'n' bass, grime, folk and electronic: all the styles of music you could ever dream of (and then some) are here. Whether you want to sing, perform, DJ, just listen or do a bit of everything – it's all possible.

OXFORD MUSIC IS:

- live at the O2 Academy and New Theatre
- local unsigned acts at smaller venues
- regular jams
- open mic nights
- student gigs and other events supported by RockSoc
- classical lunchtime and evening concerts
- traditional college choirs
- a cappella groups
- non-auditioned vocal ensembles

COLLEGE MUSIC IS:

- well-equipped music rooms
- bands, choirs and orchestras
- DJing at parties
- a lively chapel music environment
- scope for outstanding work in liturgical music as well as experience in concert performance, touring and recording

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY

- four orchestras
- wind orchestra
- brass band
- string ensemble
- University chorus

Are you serious about your singing?

Whatever subject you're planning to apply for, you can follow in the footsteps of today's leading singers Toby Spence, Emma Kirkby and Robin Blaze, and audition for a choral scholarship. Find out about the September auditions: ox.ac.uk/choralorganawards.

Are you an organist?

Organ scholars play a crucial part in Oxford's rich musical traditions. In some colleges, they direct chapel music, whilst in others they assist professional music directors. The role develops skills in choral accompanying, direction and administration and can be a significant first step to becoming a celebrated musician. Some colleges require their organ scholars to be studying music. Find out about the September auditions: ox.ac.uk/choralorganawards.

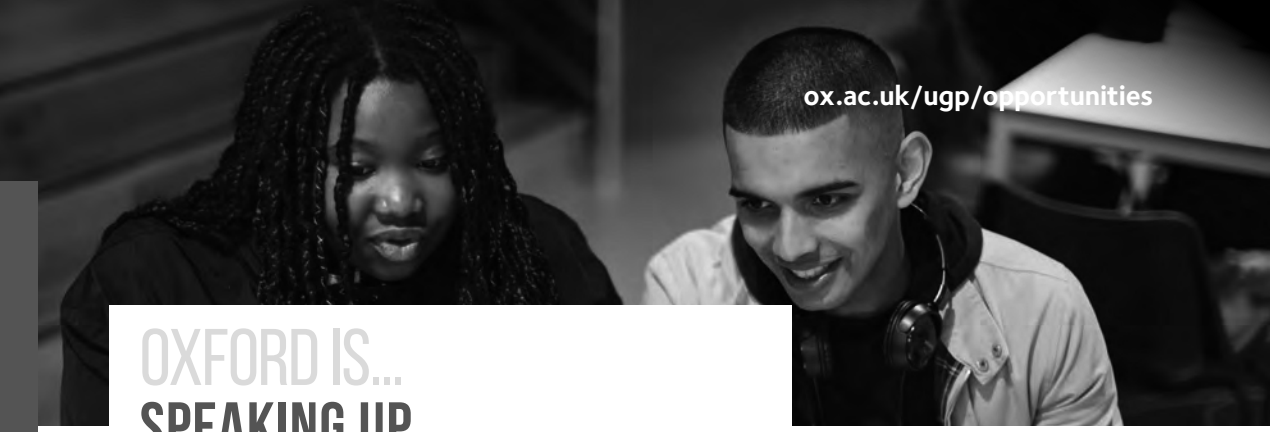
Choral and organ awards open day

Saturday 2 May 2020

Workshops and the opportunity to join a college choir for Evensong
www.music.ox.ac.uk/apply/undergraduate/choral-and-organ-awards

> It was electric. Seeing the whole room dancing and having fun because of the music we were making just made me crave doing it again...and again... Studying medicine at Oxford has definitely not resulted in me having to give up my passion for music. JESSICA

Study music: page 118



OXFORD IS...
SPEAKING UP

IN PRINT AND ONLINE

Oxford's student newspapers have long been the training ground for some of Britain's most successful journalists. Even if you don't want to be a journalist, honing your writing skills and publishing articles on topics you care about and in well-respected journals always looks good on a CV.

Choose from:

- *Cherwell: Oxford's Independent Newspaper*
- *The Oxford Student* newspaper
- *Isis* magazine (shortlisted for Best Website, 2015 Guardian Student Media Awards)
- *ONYX*: magazine showcasing the voices of our BAME students
- *The Oxford Scientist*

or

- start your own blog or college magazine if there isn't one
- get involved with running your college's social media

CAMPAIGN WITH YOUR OXFORD SU

As an active member of your student union you can champion causes you feel strongly about. Oxford SU makes sure the student voice is always heard by:

- representing you to the University and the wider community
- supporting you to bring about change through targeted campaigns
- organising events to enhance your time here.

See more on campaigns: page 9

WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

"I am on the Women's Campaign committee (the University's feminist society). I've been having the most brilliant time doing it and have met loads of people from other years and other colleges. **ALICE**

"I go to University society events – I'm quite involved in LGBTQ+ stuff, so I'll go to a drinks event in the evening, the LGBTQ+ Campaign open meeting or a board game social. **ANNA**

"I am a member of the Oxford Lawyers Against Poverty. It is a not-for-profit organization targeted at alleviating poverty through improving access to justice. Being a student has broadened my awareness of [so many] issues... **BEATRICE**

OUT LOUD

Debate and discussion about everything is a quintessential part of Oxford life: whether this is with friends late into the night over a cup of tea in your room, whilst propping up the college bar or during your weekly tutorials. If good conversation and communication are things you enjoy, you can raise these skills to a whole new level at Oxford.

On the airwaves

Oxide student radio station combines a diverse playlist with talk shows and interviews.

THE MOVERS AND THE SHAKERS

Oxford's reputation means many influential and famous people from all walks of life come to visit, so don't be surprised to find yourself having dinner with them in your college or hearing them give a talk at your society.

> I suppose one thing that is surprising is how normal most people are here. Although everybody is a geek in some way or other, most people are completely unintimidating and you can have completely relaxed conversations about all sorts of nonsense without feeling there has to be some sort of an intellectual reason for saying something. **IHSAAN**

OXFORD IS...
ABOUT YOU

Here are some of the qualities our students think are important in Oxford applicants:

ENTHUSIASM – FOR YOUR SUBJECT AND LIFE GENERALLY

POSITIVITY

CURIOSITY

> You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be yourself. **HOLLY**

> Don't be afraid to have a try. **JACK**

HARD WORKING

DETERMINATION

SELF-MOTIVATION

> Apply, apply, apply! You have nothing to lose in applying and potentially a lot to gain. Believe in yourself. **SIMRAN**

If this sounds like you AND...

- ☑ **You love one of our courses**
- ☑ **You are on target to meet our entrance requirements (see page 38)**
- ☑ **You like the sound of tutorial teaching (see page 14)**

THEN PLEASE APPLY!

> I think the common denominator that I find at Oxford is the ability to think deeply... It's the ability to look at anything – whether it's a newspaper article, a piece of research or an object – and instinctively start considering the theory behind it, the potential impacts on a wider level, your own position and thoughts about it, what other people may think... It's the ability to absolutely refuse to take things at face value.
>
> **HUGH**

AS A DISABLED STUDENT

Whether your disability is seen or unseen, the earlier we know about your particular requirements, the sooner we can begin to meet them. Please be assured that our admissions decisions are based on academic merit and potential, and the University makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate access. Your support will be carefully and individually tailored and may include the following:

- pre-application advice
- one-to-one meetings at open days
- help with interview arrangements for shortlisted applicants
- help with DSA applications
- arranging study needs assessments
- organising alternative exam arrangements
- provision of specialist equipment, software and study support workers
- help with travel costs.

ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability

Get in touch to find out more:
disability@admin.ox.ac.uk

Watch students talk about studying here with a disability:
ox.ac.uk/swd

Don't forget to tell us if you require specific arrangements during your interview.

AS A CARE LEAVER

We will work with you to make sure you have the support you need during your studies and can really enjoy your student life. This will include:

- help to secure 365-day accommodation.
- access to a Crankstart Scholarship (see page 186) or the standard Oxford bursary (see page 187) and a dedicated Care Leaver bursary of up to £3,000 pa.
- your own support coordinator to discuss any concerns and to act as a link between you and your local authority.

Contact care@admin.ox.ac.uk for confidential advice and guidance.

4,000+

STUDENTS REGISTERED WITH OXFORD'S DISABILITY SERVICE

students with mobility or sensory impairments

students with some types of long-term mental or physical health condition

students with autism spectrum conditions

students with dyslexia, dyspraxia, AD(H)D and other specific learning difficulties

AS A MATURE STUDENT

(AGED 21+ AT THE START OF YOUR COURSE)

Oxford is looking for the best and brightest candidates, irrespective of their age or background.

Coming to university as a mature student can be both exciting and challenging, and your experiences are likely to be different to those of younger students. So whether you have been to university before or not, there is plenty of support on offer to help you extend your qualifications, improve your employment prospects or pursue an academic interest for its own sake. Our application process for mature students is exactly the same as for all other undergraduates, and you are welcome to apply to any college.

- One college, Harris Manchester (page 154), takes only mature students.
- Formal academic qualifications must be undertaken within the three years before you apply.
  ox.ac.uk/enreqs
- Work experience and life skills will also be taken into account by tutors assessing your application.
- Applying for a second undergraduate degree or equivalent level qualification (ELQ) may have funding implications.
  ox.ac.uk/elq
  ox.ac.uk/sud
- Residence in or near Oxford city during term time is compulsory for full-time undergraduates: either in college, in other accommodation within six miles of the city centre, or within 25 miles if it is your family home.

I'd always had an interest in attending university; poor performance in secondary schooling and then the fulfilment of parental responsibilities precluded an orthodox route to higher education for me, however. Much later in life I returned to education, studying part-time in the evenings or at weekends whilst still working. Having completed a two-year course, I then applied for a full-time BA at Oxford and am now living in Harris Manchester College… and, it must be said, feeling very much at home already. **MARTIN**

Advice for student parents
ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/childcare

Flexible and part-time courses
conted.ox.ac.uk

AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Our students come from over 150 countries and we hugely value the benefits that this diversity brings to our academic community. The application process is exactly the same for you as for all other candidates.

WILL YOU ACCEPT MY QUALIFICATIONS?

Oxford may accept school-leaving qualifications and scores from your country if they are equivalent to the attainment of very high grades in three or more British A-levels; otherwise you may need to undertake further study.
ox.ac.uk/intquals

IS MY ENGLISH GOOD ENOUGH?

Teaching at Oxford is all in English (unless specific to a language course) so you will need a high standard of written and spoken English. You may be required to take an English test to prove your fluency. Our Language Centre (page 5) offers English classes in advanced writing and communication skills.
ox.ac.uk/enlang

DO I HAVE TO COME TO OXFORD IF I'M SHORTLISTED FOR INTERVIEW?

Shortlisted candidates are invited to interview in Oxford during December and you are strongly advised to attend if you can. If you live far away, you may be offered an interview by video call but this is at the discretion of admissions tutors.

All shortlisted candidates for Medicine must come to Oxford for interview.
ox.ac.uk/interviews

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE WHEN I ARRIVE?

Our Student Information and Immigration team offers:

- podcasts and advice to help you settle in
- immigration and visa advice.

ox.ac.uk/students/new/international

WILL THERE BE OTHER PEOPLE FROM MY COUNTRY?

Around 22% of our undergraduates are from outside the UK, and there are student societies representing most countries in the world (page 23).

DO YOU RUN EVENTS IN MY COUNTRY?

Our recruitment team runs events in several countries for international students and their teachers and advisors.
ox.ac.uk/intvisit

HOW SATISFIED ARE OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

GOOD PLACE TO BE 97%	EXPERT LECTURERS 98%	ONLINE LIBRARY 95%
PHYSICAL LIBRARY 96%	RESEARCH 94%	UNIVERSITY CLUBS/SOCIETIES 97%

Source: International Student Barometer, IGI Services Ltd (2018)

2020 UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

1 July, 2 July and 18 September

> The buildings are so beautiful. Just walking through the streets of Oxford is relaxing and enjoyable.
>
> **PRIYADARSHINI**

> At the end of the day, Oxford is what you make it, so don't be put off by any preconceptions you might have and come down to an open day to see for yourself if this is a place you can thrive in.
>
> **KALYNA**

> Just walking around the city still feels like being in a fairy tale, surrounded by so many unique and beautiful buildings that make you feel so lucky to live here.
>
> **JONATHAN**

COME AND SEE

The best time to visit is during our University Open Days, but prospective applicants are often welcome to walk around the grounds of colleges free of charge, especially during the afternoons. The University's museums and some other buildings are also open to the public. University departments are not usually open to visitors, except on our Open Days.
ox.ac.uk/ugvisit

...WHAT YOU MAKE IT