Welcome to Oxford

Oxford University is made up of over 30 colleges as well as subject departments, libraries and museums, so there is a lot to see. Unlike many universities there is no central campus, as the buildings are spread across the city. Pick up our undergraduate prospectus from one of the colleges while you are here, for all you need to know about the University and how to apply.

When you arrive

The train station, coach, and park and ride stops are all within walking distance of the city centre. Please use the accompanying map to find your way.

Visiting colleges

35 colleges accept undergraduate students, so you won’t be able to visit them all. We recommend that you first check which colleges offer the course you are interested in at ox.ac.uk/whichcolls, and then pick out a few to visit which differ in size and age. This will give you a good idea of the differences and similarities across the colleges. For more advice please see ox.ac.uk/collegechoice.

Most colleges are open throughout the year, at least for you to walk around the grounds. See ox.ac.uk/visitors for details of opening times and any admissions charges which may apply, though many colleges waive these for potential applicants.

Visiting departments

We are sorry that it’s not usually possible to visit teaching facilities or arrange personal meetings in departments especially during term time. If you have any questions for departments please contact us online at ox.ac.uk/courses, or come back on an open day.

Places to eat and drink

There are many good cafés and restaurants all over the city of Oxford. You will be spoilt for choice in Broad Street, the Covered Market (between Market Street and the High Street), Cornmarket, the High Street, Little Clarendon Street and the Oxford Castle area.

Turl Street Kitchen (16–17 Turl Street, OX1 3DH) is in the heart of the city centre. The building houses Oxford Hub, the Kitchen’s sister charity, which supports student community volunteering.

The Weston Library (Map ref I), Ashmolean Museum (Map ref A) and Museum of Natural History (Map ref K) each have a café. You are also welcome to visit the following department cafés:

The Biochemistry café (Department of Biochemistry, 27)

Café π (Mathematical Institute, 36)

If you are lucky with the weather and you feel like a picnic, perhaps by the river, then you may like to go to the University Parks or Christ Church Meadow.

Visiting museums and libraries

The University museums are an important resource for students on many of our courses, so you may wish to include these in your visit. To find out more please see ox.ac.uk/museums.

There are also over 100 libraries in Oxford, some of which are open to the public. Check details of tours and exhibitions at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/visit.

These are four of the main University museums, all of which are free to visit:

Ashmolean Museum (Map ref A)

This museum is home to the University’s collection of art and archaeology. Particularly relevant to those studying Ancient and Modern History; Archaeology and Anthropology; Classical Archaeology and Ancient History; Classics, Fine Art; History of Art; Oriental Studies.

Open: Tue–Sun 10:00–17:00. Closed Mondays, except Bank Holiday Mondays open 10:00–17:00.

Oxford University Museum of Natural History (Map ref K)

The museum houses an impressive range of scientific collections of zoological and geological specimens in a spectacular Victorian building. Particularly relevant to those studying Biology; Earth Sciences.

Open: 10:00–17:00 daily.

Museum of the History of Science (Map ref I)

This museum houses an unrivalled collection of historic scientific instruments, including Einstein’s blackboard and Queen Elizabeth I’s astrolabe. Particularly relevant to those studying all science and history courses.

Open: Tue–Sun 12:00–17:00.

Pitt Rivers Museum (Map ref M enter via the Museum of Natural History)

The Pitt Rivers Museum is home to a remarkable collection of man-made objects from all parts of the world. Particularly relevant to those studying Archaeology and Anthropology; History of Art.

Open: Tue-Sun and Bank Holiday Mondays: 10.00-16.30; Mon 12:00–16:30. For Christmas and Easter opening times please check prm.ox.ac.uk.

Any questions?

If you need further information after your visit, please refer to our website at ox.ac.uk/study or contact Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach: ox.ac.uk/ask

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For outreach events aimed at school and college students: ox.ac.uk/outreachevents

For listings of lectures, concerts, exhibitions, and other events open to the public: ox.ac.uk/whatson