





Welcome

We hope that this prospectus and our website will tell you everything you need to know about applying to Oxford. If you have any questions, please contact:



Admissions Information Centre

+44 (0) 1865 288000
undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk



Oxford has been awarded the **Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark** in recognition of support offered to care leavers throughout the applications process and during their time studying here.

If you have spent time in care and are thinking of applying, or you are supporting a care leaver in this situation, please feel free to contact us for further information at:

FrankButtleTrust@admin.ox.ac.uk



Do you need this prospectus in another format?

Black/white high contrast version available to download from:

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/prospectus/

Braille, large print and audio formats are also available on request from the Admissions Information Centre using the contact details above



Open days

If you can, come and visit us on an Open Day. Open Days are an excellent opportunity to explore colleges and departments and to talk to tutors and students.

The University Open Days are:

- 1 July 2009
- 2 July 2009
- 18 September 2009

There are also other events throughout the year.
For details and booking information please see:

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/opendays/

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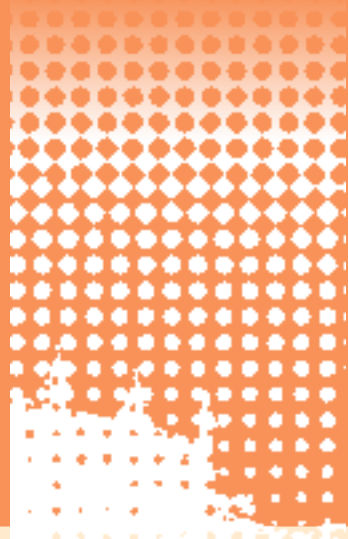
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Why Oxford?

TEN

Ten reasons to apply

- 1 World-class reputation for academic excellence
- 2 Accessible to all students of talent and ability, irrespective of background
- 3 Tutorial system
- 4 International experts
- 5 College life
- 6 Wealth of resources
- 7 Equality and diversity
- 8 Extracurricular activities and social life
- 9 Accommodation
- 10 Excellent graduate employment record

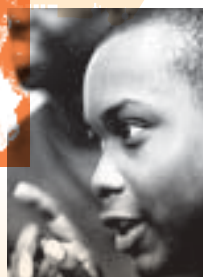


and three reasons not to...

1 I'm afraid of hard work

2 I only want to be around 'people like me'

3 Friends reckon I wouldn't fit in (and I can't make my own decisions)





Studying at Oxford

The University of Oxford is world-famous for academic excellence. We pick the best and brightest students purely on their academic merit and passion for their chosen course. If that sounds like you, and you like to think for yourself, Oxford could be right for you.

Studying at Oxford is no more expensive than anywhere else – but it is more exciting. It is a springboard from which to dive into an ocean of opportunities.

Learning and teaching

Tutorials are central to study at Oxford. They give you the chance to discuss your subject with a world leader in the field. Your tutor gives individual support and encourages you to develop your full potential.

As well as tutorials in college, students share lectures, classes and practicals in their department, depending on their subject. The Oxford system combines the best of one-to-one or small-group teaching in college with the wealth of resources in the University.

When the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published the results of its Research Assessment Exercise 2008, the University was judged to have the largest submission of world-leading research (4* rated) in the UK. Oxford also has the largest submission of world-leading or internationally excellent research (4* or 3* rated) in the UK.

What happens in a tutorial?

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 need not be experienced in debating; you just need to be ready to present and defend your opinions, listen to others and accept constructive criticism.

Tutorials develop your ability to think for yourself, an essential ability for academic success but also a skill that the best employers look for in Oxford graduates.

Am I only taught in my own college?

Your college may also arrange tutorials for you in another college, particularly when you start to specialise. This ensures that, whatever options you choose, you are always taught by an expert. It also exposes you to new ideas and different ways of conducting a tutorial.

Equally important are the University's lectures and practicals; your tutor will advise which ones are useful or essential for you.

Courses

Whichever college you go to, the course is the same: the University organises the lectures and practical classes, and sets the examinations. Whichever course you choose, an Oxford degree aims to make you think for yourself, logically and laterally.

Selecting the right course for you is the most important decision you will have to make when applying to university. You should be sure that your chosen degree and the way it is taught at Oxford are right for you. Usually, you cannot change courses after you start; where this is possible, the course page mentions it.

Is there a set syllabus?

All our degree courses have a compulsory core, plus various options you can choose from, letting you tailor the course to your personal interests. Course pages give examples of options; the course websites tell you much more.

Combined courses

Oxford offers many degrees that combine subjects – joint schools, we often call them – even linking arts and sciences, such as Physics and Philosophy. You follow one course, but you choose elements of each degree and perhaps special joint options, which are sometimes called 'bridge papers'. There is strong competition for combined courses, and you must show your aptitude for each part of the degree.

How is my work assessed?

In most courses you sit exams in your first year, which you must pass to continue the course, but they do not count towards your degree. You then work towards final exams, which usually take place in your last term.

Science students sit some exams in the second year. Some exams may be replaced by projects or dissertations. Most science courses have a fourth year; this may be entirely research-based, or part research and part exams.

Non-science ('arts') students also sit finals in their last term – typically several exams, each lasting three hours, within a two-week period. In some subjects like Modern Languages, there is also an oral exam. Some exams may be replaced by a thesis and/or extended written work. The course pages give more detail.

What is academic dress?

You may have seen pictures of Oxford students in gowns. The only times you have to wear this 'academic dress' are matriculation, the ceremony which admits you to the University, and formal exams, when you must wear a gown, with dark skirt or trousers and white blouse (women) or a dark suit (men).

Is it all work and no play?

You work hard, but there is plenty of time to play too. You can take up sports, join societies, take part in our rich cultural and musical life, or just enjoy time with your new friends.



Libraries

Oxford has over 100 libraries of three kinds:

- college libraries
- subject-based libraries
- research libraries

One card gives access to many libraries, all of them listed at: www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/libraries/



College libraries

Your college library is the place to start. It has all the core material for your course, with multiple copies of the most popular books and those regularly seen on tutors' reading lists. College libraries have generous lending limits, many will buy books that you request, most are open around the clock and all are quiet places to study. The librarian can help you find what you need in college or elsewhere in the University.

Bodleian Library

Known affectionately as 'The Bod', the UK's second largest library has over eight million volumes on 11.7 miles of shelves. The Bodleian is a legal deposit library, so it can claim a copy of any book or periodical published in Britain or Ireland.

www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodleian/

Subject-based libraries

For many topics, subject-based libraries complement your college library. They are an extra source of reading list titles and they hold more specialist and more advanced material for optional topics. Library staff give introductory sessions and guidance in finding books and journals and using electronic resources.

Research libraries

These, though meant for researchers, are also open to undergraduates and many include material specifically for students. Their extensive collections of books and periodicals are especially valuable for extended essays and dissertations in your final year. They include:

Radcliffe Science Library

For science and medicine; most journals, current and back issues, are available electronically. www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/rsl/

Sackler Library

For archaeology and antiquities of Europe and the Middle East, art history (Western and Eastern) and classics, with multiple-copy classics lending collection for undergraduates.

www.saclib.ox.ac.uk

Social Science Library

Serves the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and undergraduate courses including PPE, Economics and Management, and History and Politics, with a major statistics collection. www.ssl.ox.ac.uk

Taylor Institution Library

For medieval and modern European languages and literatures; houses the Modern Languages Faculty Library, books and DVDs.

www.taylib.ox.ac.uk

Electronic resources

Most Oxford libraries have selected internet resources and are linked electronically, with:

- OLIS, the online catalogue (www.lib.ox.ac.uk/olis/), makes it easy to find specific material
- SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online) gives access to the largest electronic resources in any UK university, including the option of cross-searching many of our collections
- OxLIP+ is the Oxford Library Information Platform (at <http://oxlip-plus.ouls.ox.ac.uk>), gateway to all the University's extensive databases, electronic reference works, e-books and e-journals, which allows cross-searching
- Oxford University e-Journals (at <http://ejournals.ouls.ox.ac.uk>) contains over 28,000 electronic journals

Oxford is actively developing electronic provision of information, and leads in digitisation of manuscripts and other material (see www.ouls.ox.ac.uk).

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

"I never had to spend any money on buying my own books because the libraries are so excellent."

Gregor



Museums and collections

Oxford has collections of international importance – databanks for research, teaching and study, full of wonderful treasures that anyone can enjoy. Here we highlight the four major museums and the Botanic Garden, but there are other collections in departments and colleges.

All welcome volunteers to work with the public or the collection.

www.ox.ac.uk/museums/

Ashmolean Museum

This is the world's oldest public museum and the most important museum of art and archaeology in this country outside London, as well as being the greatest university museum in the world. It has a strong collection of European graphic art, with drawings by Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael.

Currently closed for a major redevelopment, the Ashmolean will reopen in November 2009 with 39 new galleries, a purpose-built Education Centre, three new study centres with hands-on access to reserve collections, and a rooftop restaurant.

Students of Ancient History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art or Classics will certainly use the Ashmolean.

www.ashmolean.org

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The spectacular neo-Gothic architecture of a Grade I listed building houses the University's zoological, entomological and geological specimens. Among its famous features are a dodo, the first dinosaur to be scientifically identified, and the swifts in the tower. The Archaeology, Biology and Earth Sciences courses make use of its staff and collections.

www.oum.ox.ac.uk

Pitt Rivers Museum

The Pitt Rivers is a museum of ethnography and world archaeology, celebrated for its period feel and the density of its displays. Courses that use the Museum's resources include Human Sciences, Archaeology and Anthropology, Geography, Classics, History of Art and Fine Art. The Museum is currently closed for restoration and will reopen on 1 May 2009. It takes its name and founding collection from General Pitt Rivers, the distinguished Victorian collector and scholar.

www.prm.ox.ac.uk

Museum of the History of Science

The world's oldest purpose-built museum building houses an unrivalled collection of 25,000 scientific instruments, from antiquity to the 20th century, especially astrolabes, sundials, quadrants, mathematical and optical instruments, and apparatus associated with chemistry, natural philosophy and medicine. The staff teach Modern History and History of Art courses.

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

Botanic Garden

This acts as a reference collection of 6,000 types of plant: it is the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world, and the oldest such garden in Britain. Plants grown here support teaching and research, in the University and elsewhere, and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The garden contributes to the Biological Sciences and Medicine courses.

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk



Computing services

The University has excellent IT facilities, and most departments and colleges have computer rooms, network access and computing support for their staff and students.

IT learning programme

Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS) provides a wide range of IT services, including practical IT courses, covering introductory and specialised uses of computers, common operating systems and popular application software.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

OUCS runs Weblearn, the central VLE, where you can find course material and other tools for learning such as discussion rooms and online quizzes. To view the publicly available content (some is available only to specific students) visit:

www.weblearn.ox.ac.uk.

Other services at OUCS

The OUCS Help Centre has a number of public PCs and Macs with a range of popular software, and for use with scanning and printing facilities. They provide general support and advice by email, telephone and in person if your local IT support cannot help. Other facilities include audio and video capture, a PC breakdown service to repair or replace your PC, poster printing, mailing list software and free or low cost software from the online shop.

Help and further information

Colleges and departments have IT support staff you can turn to for help. If your local IT support person cannot help, they can refer you to OUCS who are often able to resolve more complex problems.

www.oucs.ox.ac.uk

Language Centre

Large and well equipped, the Language Centre is open to all University members, whatever their degree subject. It offers two main programmes, plus support for non-native English speakers.

Courses for all and for special groups

The Language Centre offers two main programmes of language study. The LASR (Languages for Study and Research) programme offers term-time courses in French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Welsh at most levels from beginner to advanced. These courses are intended primarily (but not exclusively) for those who need foreign languages for their study or research. OPAL, the Oxford University Programme in Languages, offers certificated evening courses in a more limited range of languages for highly motivated language learners. In addition, special courses are currently organised for undergraduates studying Chemistry (French, German and Spanish), Engineering Science (French and German), Law (French and Dutch), Maths (French), Modern History (French), History of Art (Italian), and Physics (French, German and Spanish). There are modest charges for courses which may be payable by colleges or departments.

English language support

Students should be fluent in English before starting their course (see p. 117). Pre-session (August/September) courses in English for Academic Studies help students to improve their English and adjust to a UK university before the year starts. Term-time courses aim at improving students' use of English, or have a particular focus such as academic writing. (See p. 118 for further details for international students.)

Language Library

The first-class Language Library has text, audio, video and computer-based material in 130 languages, satellite reception in 13, and internet links to language learning sites.

Contact us at 12 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT, telephone +44 (0) 1865 283360, email admin@lang.ox.ac.uk

www.lang.ox.ac.uk



It isn't all rowing and rugby at Oxford. You can play for fun, try a new sport or just get fit. But, if you want to represent the University, you have the chance to join a rich tradition and some very competitive teams. The University's top athletes gain the status of 'Blue' – an accolade that stems from the first boat race in 1829, when Cambridge tied light blue ribbons to their boat and Oxford adopted Christ Church's dark blue.

Oxford is currently ranked in the top 10 British universities for sport thanks to coaching and commitment. As well as the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) championships and other tournaments, there are inter-university competitions and college leagues; every Wednesday, 36 teams compete.

You have the use of some of the best sporting facilities of any university, on three main sites: the Iffley Road sports complex, the University Parks sports grounds and the Marston Road sports ground. Iffley Road is where many clubs train and compete; it boasts a fitness gym, an all-weather running track, an Olympic-standard hockey pitch, a 25-metre swimming pool, rowing tank, cricket school, sports hall and dojo, along with provision for Association football, lawn tennis and rugby. The cricketers play on the picturesque University Parks – the only place in Britain where spectators can watch first-class cricket

for free. Many of the women's teams use Marston Road and its clubhouse. Many of the colleges have facilities of their own, from squash courts and fitness suites to boathouses, cricket pitches and lively clubhouses. All these grounds form a network of green spaces across the city.

The University's Sports Federation helps to run over 80 clubs – including traditional sports, new and esoteric activities, and everything between – for anyone from the interested dilettante to the international athlete. Sport and exercise enhance student life for everyone. Whether you want to play in a serious team or a less serious one, or you just enjoy running, swimming, cycling or other sports by yourself, you will find what you are looking for here.

Come along to our open days at the Iffley Road sports complex in order to find out more.

Open days: 1 and 2 July, and 18 September 2009

www.sport.ox.ac.uk

- Aikido
- American football
- Athletics
- Aussie rules
- Badminton
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Boats
- Boxing
- Canoes and kayaks
- Caving
- Cheerleading
- Company of Archers
- Cricket
- Croquet
- Cross-country
- Cycling
- Dancesport
- Eton fives
- Fencing
- Floorball
- Football
- Gaelic games
- Gliding
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Hockey
- Ice hockey
- Jitsu
- Judo
- Karate
- Karate KDS
- Kendo
- Kickboxing
- Korfbal
- Kung Fu
- Lacrosse
- Lawn tennis
- Lifesaving
- Lightweight rowing
- Modern pentathlon
- Motor drivers
- Mountaineering
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Pistol
- Polo
- Pool
- Powerlifting
- Punting
- Rackets
- Real tennis
- Riding
- Rifle
- Rowing clubs
- Rugby fives
- Rugby league
- Rugby union
- Shorinji kempo
- Ski and snowboard
- Squash racquets
- Sulkido
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Taekwon-do
- Tai chi
- Trampoline
- Triathlon
- Ultimate frisbee
- Underwater exploration
- Volleyball
- Walking
- Waterpolo
- Windsurfing
- Wrestling
- Yachts



Music

Oxford's reputation in music stretches back centuries. Some college choirs, with worldwide reputations today, can be traced back to the medieval foundation. Now, as well as its Music degree (see p. 93), Oxford offers students a wealth of opportunity to become involved in music, as listeners or performers, at all levels. The city is home to many ensembles, bands and choirs, and the Sheldonian Theatre and the Holywell Music Room are prime venues for student and professional performances.

Oxford University Music Society (OUMS)

Formed in 1867 to promote appreciation and performance of music, OUMS is one of the University's oldest societies. Its members enjoy a range of facilities such as practice rooms, and the society helps many performing groups and college music societies recruit players and advertise concerts. OUMS also runs its own ensembles: the Oxford University Orchestra is professionally conducted and students conduct the Oxford University Philharmonia, Oxford University Sinfonietta, Oxford University Wind Orchestra, Oxford Chamber Orchestra, Oxford University String Ensemble, Oxford University Student Chorus, Oxford University Big Band and Oxford University Brass Band.

www.oums.org

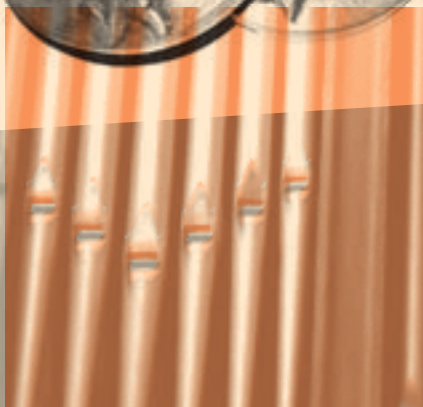
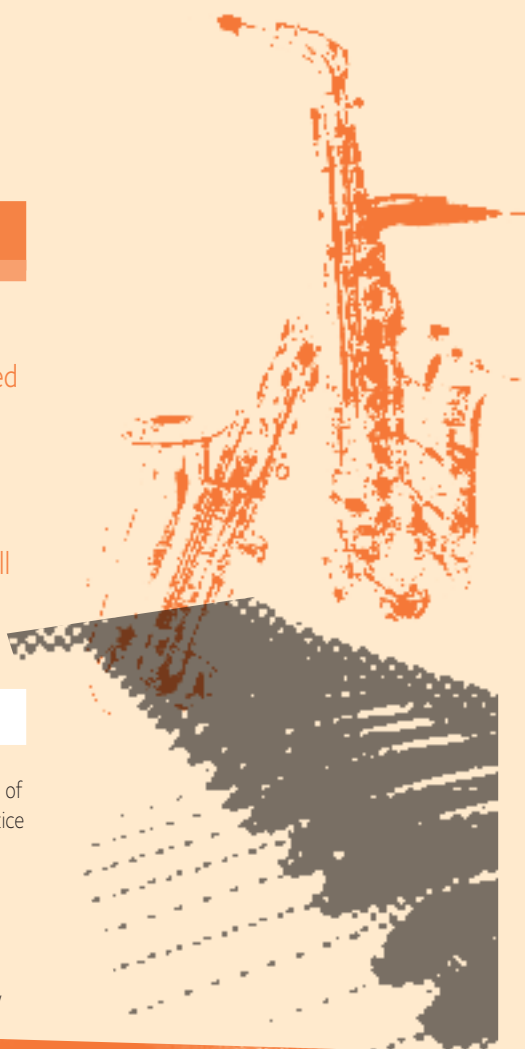
More groups and activities

Many colleges support musicians by awards and other support. Students can be choral scholars (see opposite), and organ scholars run, or help to run, the music of the college, especially the chapel. Colleges often have their own music societies, which may run smaller orchestras and choirs, and organise regular solo and chamber recitals.

Oxford Philomusica, the University's orchestra in residence, offers all sorts of opportunities in performances, recitals, masterclasses and coaching. At the top end of musical ability, the University boasts student orchestras of professional calibre – the Oxford University Orchestra and Oxford University Philharmonia – and the renowned choirs of Christ Church, Magdalen and New College, along with the Schola Cantorum.

Opera is promoted by at least two groups, and other organisations in the University cater for almost every conceivable interest – soul, jazz, indie, rock, electronica, classical Indian, contemporary Russian and more. If you still feel there is something missing, Oxford is the ideal place to do your own thing with the wealth of musical talent in the University.

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/music/



Choral and organ scholarships

Oxford choirs enjoy an international reputation for excellence: in chapel, in concert, on tour, on CD. Any talented singer or organist can join in through the choral and organ awards scheme. The choral foundations – Christ Church, Magdalen and New College – offer the busiest experience for the student, performing on a more or less daily basis during term. Other colleges with mixed choirs – Keble, Queen's, Merton, St Peter's, Somerville and Worcester – have fewer services, but are still run by professional musicians. The remaining choirs are directed by their organ scholars.

The University, recognising the educational and cultural value of music in college chapels, is keen to attract the very best singers and organists, and to see as many as possible attend the annual choral and organ open day, which takes the form of a series of workshops and evensong. College visits and enquiries are most welcome.

Choral scholarships

Applicants to the University interested in the opportunities for singers can audition for a choral award at their preferred college or colleges. You can read for any subject. The duties and benefits of a choral award vary greatly from college to college, and you can find out more by consulting the booklet on choral awards published by the Music Faculty. Your development as a singer, through direction, experience and specialist tuition, is the educational aim of college and University, an aim also reflected in the Music finals option 'Choral Performance' (see pp. 93 and 94). A significant number of today's leading singers – Toby Spence, Susan Gritton, Emma Kirkby and Robin Blaze, to name but a few – started out as choral scholars at Oxford. You can do the same.

Organ scholarships

Organ scholars have a crucial role in the Oxford music scene: in some colleges they are effectively directors of the chapel music; in others they act as assistants to a professional director of music. The experience is without parallel for musicians wishing to engage in music-making at a high level, learn how to accompany and direct choirs and other ensembles, and acquire organisational skills. The chapel music environment in Oxford is extremely lively and dynamic, and offers scope not only for outstanding work in chapel contexts but also for external activities, such as concert tours and recordings. The duties and responsibilities of organ scholars differ widely from college to college, and to find the best fit for your talents and ambitions you should enquire carefully about them. The Oxford choral and organ open day is a good place to start. In most colleges, organ scholarships are open to applicants for any subject. Many colleges have two organ scholars at any one time, to ensure continuity, and time for your academic tasks!

Organ scholars receive funding for organ lessons, and the Betts Fund arranges regular masterclasses from leading performers, and study trips to European destinations. Previous organ scholars from Oxford have distinguished themselves as conductors, accompanists, and early-music specialists, as well as organists and church musicians. The quality of organs in Oxford, including instruments by Rieger, Metzler, Frobenius, Aubertin, Father Willis, and Létourneau, contributes to the excitement of being an Oxford organ scholar.

Further Information

For the selection process, including vacancies, entry procedures, timetable, preparation, see www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/orgscholars/. For information on the activities, duties and benefits of the individual choirs please see individual college websites. The Music Faculty publishes on its website, www.music.ox.ac.uk, further information on both choral and organ awards, including a compilation of college data on choirs and organs.

Open day: 2 May 2009

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Roya Ziai

Choral Scholar, The Queen's College

My experience as a choral scholar has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable of my time at Oxford. Aside from the three evensong services per week, which form the main bulk of a choral scholar's duties, I have had the opportunity to sing in world-famous venues such as Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, and to participate in the choir's latest CD recording and in a recording session at Abbey Road Studios for the soundtrack of a blockbuster film. I have also enjoyed performing in national festivals and touring internationally with the choir. The most rewarding experience to date, though, was undoubtedly performing Bach's *Mass in B minor* with the London Handel Orchestra to a packed chapel and to have been chosen as a soloist on this occasion.

The extensive variety of chapel choirs which Oxford has to offer is a wonderful, yet also daunting, aspect of applying for a choral scholarship, but I also know that the choice may seem bewildering. It is important to ask yourself whether you would most enjoy singing several services per week in one of the prestigious all-male Choral Foundations or if you would prefer to join a mixed-voice choir, which would entail a smaller time commitment. Similarly, you will need to consider whether to apply for a choral scholarship in a professionally-directed choir or in one conducted by a student organ scholar. In order to help you make your decision you might wish to consider attending the Choral and Organ Scholarships open day, which includes the opportunity to meet current choral scholars and to take part in Choral Evensong. Alternatively you could sample a few services in your own time since members of the public are always welcome. Wherever you decide to apply, I'm sure that you will find the opportunity to participate in an important tradition of college life, with like-minded musicians and in beautiful surroundings, as rewarding as I have.

Jonathan Lo

Organ Scholar, St Peter's

The organ scholarship experience is simply so much more than just playing the organ! As the junior organ scholar at my college I was responsible for assisting the senior organ scholar and spent a good deal of time accompanying the choir and giving recitals. Involvement with the college's concert projects has included touring extensively abroad every year, as well as being the choir in residence at Liverpool Cathedral and Durham Cathedral. As the senior organ scholar, I now conduct as well as co-manage the choir in areas such as music programming and organising concerts.

In such a vibrant musical community, the organ scholar is expected to take a central role in the college music society, and in my case that meant conducting and co-producing *Don Giovanni*, as well as establishing the St Peter's College Chamber Orchestra.

Of course, being an organ scholar doesn't mean that your activities are confined to your college – I was able to take my conducting ambition to the wider university community and have conducted the Oxford University Philharmonia, the University Chorus and have made a guest appearance at Oxford Brookes University!

Clubs and societies

With over 400 groups to choose from, your time at Oxford will never be dull. There are so many – not just for music and sports, but literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, cultural groups, opportunities for volunteering and more – that it may be a challenge to decide which to join. Whatever your level of expertise, you can become involved in any club or society that interests you. If a society or team does not exist, you may find support for setting one up. The annual Freshers' Fair at the start of the first term is an ideal opportunity to find out what is available.



Drama

Oxford is famous for drama, with about 30 student productions every term, at the Burton Taylor Studio, the OFS Studio, the Oxford Playhouse or in one of the colleges, whose gardens provide wonderful settings for outdoor shows in the summer term. On stage, backstage or in the audience, you can take in a great variety of traditional, contemporary and experimental plays.

There are University-wide bodies – including the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS), the Experimental Theatre Club (ETC), the theatre technicians' and designers' society (TAFD) and the Oxford Revue – and many societies at college level. Every year OUDS mounts an international tour of a production directed, performed and produced by students, to Japan in 2008 and Georgia in 2009. It also hosts a national tour every summer, culminating in a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

There is a full-time University Drama Officer who helps students to plan, programme and publicise their productions. The Drama Officer also organises workshops and talks, which are free and open to all, and can advise those planning a career in theatre or film on graduation.

Each year a major theatrical figure is appointed as Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre and gives a series of lectures and workshops for students. The current Visiting Professor (2008–9) is Kevin Spacey; past names include Sir Richard Attenborough, Nicholas Hytner and Patrick Stewart.

Email drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk for further information.

www.oxforduniversitydrama.co.uk

www.ouds.org

www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Media

Budding journalists and broadcasters have a wealth of opportunities at Oxford, whether they want a distraction from work or the first step in a career. *Oxide* is a student-run radio station combining a diverse playlist with talk shows and interviews. The *Cherwell* and *Oxford Student* newspapers seek everything from restaurant reviews and crosswords to investigative journalism and sports reports. *Isis* magazine is Britain's oldest student publication, but Oxford has dozens of others, in print and on the web, in the University and colleges.

www.oxideradio.co.uk

www.cherwell.org

www.oxfordstudent.com

www.isismagazine.org.uk

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU)

All undergraduates are automatically members of OUSU, which represents students to the University and beyond. OUSU provides services, including welfare advice and resources, Raise and Give (RAG) and a night bus. It produces more than 20 publications, notably the *Freshers' Guide* and the *Oxford Handbook*, and organises the Freshers' Fair, regular student nights at popular clubs and other events.

OUSU also campaigns on issues affecting students, and has played a leading role in the national campaign to oppose upfront tuition fees and push for better student grants. Finally, OUSU works hard for potential candidates with its *Alternative Prospectus* and its Target Schools scheme (see p. 155 for further details), which encourages state school students to apply to Oxford. Email enquiries@ousu.org for further information.

www.ousu.org

The Oxford Union

The world's most famous debating society has long had a reputation for bringing to Oxford internationally known guests and speakers. Established in 1823, it aims to promote debate and discussion not just in the University, but across the globe. The Union is also a social centre, and there are frequent lectures by all kinds of figures, from Yassir Arafat, O.J. Simpson and Frankie Dettori to Doris Lessing, Michael Heseltine and Michael Douglas.

www.oxford-union.org



Oxford life and nightlife

The city

The 30,000 students at Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University are a big part of the city's 150,000 population. The city is youthful and cosmopolitan, with plenty to see and do. It has chain stores, boutiques, coffee shops, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, bars and clubs.

The Bodleian Library, Ashmolean Museum and Oxford's dreaming spires are some of its famous icons. There are dozens of other fine historic buildings, among them the Sheldonian Theatre, Radcliffe Camera, the cathedral and the colleges. Oxford has green spaces too: riverside walks, England's oldest botanic garden, the University Parks and college gardens.

Live music

Oxford has a vibrant music scene – everything from R'n'B and drum'n'bass to thrash metal and hip-hop – including big names and newcomers. Radiohead and Foals started out here and the city has recently played host to acts such as Calvin Harris, Dizzee Rascal, Lily Allen and the Scissor Sisters. Big names make regular stops at the O2 Academy on the Cowley Road, while smaller venues, such as The Cellar and The Wheatsheaf, are great places to catch local bands and underground acts.

Nightlife

OUSU (see opposite) and several promoters run student club-nights. There are many nightclubs in the city. At The Bridge, Lava & Ignite, and The Studio, R'n'B, hip-hop and classic 'cheese' dominate the playlist; the Purple Turtle offers free entry every night and cheap drinks for members of the Oxford Union (see opposite); at the O2 Academy you can enjoy alternative, indie and hard rock; and Po Na Na is for fans of funk, chillout and eclectic music. London's scene is only an hour and a half away. Buses to the capital run 24 hours a day.

Pubs and restaurants

Oxford's restaurants cater for all tastes – Jamaican, Thai, Polish, Kurdish, French, Lebanese and more – from cheap and cheerful to café cuisine to special dining. Many are on the Cowley Road or in the Castle complex. There are pubs and taverns too, from the 14th-century Turf Tavern to contemporary cocktail bars, like Raoul's in Jericho.

Theatre and cinema

The Oxford Playhouse is one of Britain's leading theatres and a key stop on national tours; the New Theatre stages a variety of touring productions, drama, comedy, opera, ballet and pop; the Pegasus Theatre specialises in contemporary performing arts from all over the world and youth arts education. The Burton Taylor Theatre is home to Oxford University Dramatic Society (see opposite), and a few colleges have their own theatres. Film fans have a choice of four cinemas in the city, and a multiplex on the outskirts.

Shopping

You will find all the main stores in the area around Cornmarket Street, Queen Street and the High Street, or in the Westgate and Clarendon shopping centres. The famous Covered Market has many small, specialist outlets, sandwich bars and cafés. The Cowley Road is the place for every kind of delicatessen.

Special events

Summer events include Party in the Park, Cowley Road Carnival, the Jericho Street Fair and Oxford Pride, but there are also many events rooted in Oxford's history. For example, on 1 May crowds gather on the High Street and Magdalen Bridge to listen to choristers sing an invocation to summer from the top of Magdalen College Tower at sunrise. Over the years this has turned into a real celebration, with balls, parties and long opening hours.

Summer Eights, the colleges' rowing competition, takes place every June and attracts large numbers of students supporting their college from the river bank. Whether you are sporting or not, you will enjoy the buzz and party atmosphere at the event, which lasts several days.

Websites

For Oxford gigs, cinemas, theatres and shopping, see:

- www.inoxfordmag.co.uk
- www.oxfordcitylife.co.uk
- www.dailyinfo.co.uk

For the city itself, and tourist information, look at:

- www.oxfordcity.co.uk

For the city council, and for bus services, go to:

- www.oxford.gov.uk



Equality and Diversity

Equal opportunities statement

The University of Oxford and its colleges seek to admit students of high academic ability and potential. All colleges select students for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual merits of each candidate and the application of selection criteria appropriate to the course of study. Admissions procedures will be kept under review to ensure compliance with this policy.

The Equality and Diversity Unit

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with University bodies (including University Administration and Services), academic divisions and departments to ensure that the University's pursuit of excellence goes hand in hand with freedom from discrimination and equality of opportunity. The Unit is responsible for the main objectives of the equality schemes for race, disability and gender. It works to promote all strands of equality, including sexual orientation, religion, belief and age.

The Unit provides practical support and advice to, and about, disabled students and staff. It runs the harassment advisers' network and a childcare service for staff and students. It also monitors recruitment and promotes awareness of equality and diversity throughout the collegiate University, helping people to understand legislation, their duty to promote equality and the benefits of a diverse, inclusive academic community to research, teaching and outreach.

For up-to-date information on race, gender, disability and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) equality, see the Unit's website at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/.

Disabled students

The University welcomes applications from disabled students and makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate their access to courses. Colleges and departments view applications from students with disabilities on the same academic grounds as those from other candidates.

We advise candidates to consider, before applying, the requirements of their chosen course, identifying any elements that might present particular difficulties. We recommend candidates to visit the college and department of their choice, to explore facilities and discuss specific needs. The University Disability Advisory Service is happy to help with visits by individuals, if it is given sufficient notice. It is essential to contact the department and Disability Advisory Service as early as possible in the application process, because it takes time to adjust arrangements and organise support.

Details of the Disability Equality Scheme appear on the Disability Advisory Service website (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/). The Access Guide (see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/) gives practical information.

We recommend students to get in touch with the Disability Advisory Service (contact details below) to discuss a study-related needs assessment and to advise on grants, such as the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

If a DSA Study Needs Assessment indicates a need the University can supply audio recordings, Braille texts or formats compatible with screen-readers, magnification and scanning software. Support workers including note-takers, mentors, library assistants or other support are used by students funded by DSA. Special examination arrangements may be available for students with a range of disabilities including SpLDs (Specific Learning Difficulties). With appropriate medical evidence, arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, word-processing and scheduling can be considered.

**Disability Advisory Service,
University Offices,
Wellington Square,
Oxford OX1 2JD**
Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 280459
Email: disability@admin.ox.ac.uk
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/ or
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/

Do you need this prospectus in another format?

Black/white high contrast version available to download from:
www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/prospectus/

Braille, large print and audio formats available on request from:
The Admissions Information Centre: +44 (0) 1865 288000
or undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk

Welfare and student support

Childcare

Details of nursery places are given below.
All nurseries are inspected by OFSTED. If you have further questions please contact:

Childcare Officer, University Offices,
Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD
Email: childcare@admin.ox.ac.uk
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/child/

University nurseries

The University has three nurseries, open to University staff and students. They are run by Kidsunlimited, an experienced national nursery provider. A full-time place costs £638.51 per month from October 2008; there are also two- and three-day part-time places. There is a waiting list, so you are advised to apply as soon as possible and not wait until you arrive.

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/child/nursery.shtml

College nurseries

Four colleges have their own nursery (telephone for details):

Balliol: +44 (0) 1865 515654
St Anne's: +44 (0) 1865 274868
Somerville: +44 (0) 1865 270686
Wolfson: +44 (0) 1865 274071

Contact the colleges directly to find out about eligibility, fees and waiting lists.

Other nursery places

The University retains some places in private nurseries: the Oxford Business Park, Harwell and Milton Park nurseries run by Kidsunlimited, and the Turbo Teds nursery run by Buffer Bear Ltd.

Financial support

The University's Childcare Fund helps students in financial hardship with childcare and related costs.

Childcare, Student Funding Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD.
Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 270040
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/child/fund.shtml

Private playscheme

Oxford Active offers a 15% discount to all students; it runs every half term and in school holidays (except Christmas), and has now been extended to Saturday mornings.

Contact Owen McGovern on
+44 (0) 7973 231892
www.oxfordactive.co.uk

Other childcare services

Oxfordshire Children's Information Service offers excellent advice and guidance on childcare, including childminders.

Telephone: +44 (0) 8452 262636
www.oxoncis.org.uk

Health and student welfare

The college community ensures there is always help available if you run into any problems. Apart from the JCR (Junior Common Room – see p. 120 for further details), your subject tutor will be able to help or advise, as will other senior members of your college. Each college also has a National Health Service doctor with whom you can enrol, normally in your first week. A college nurse is available for minor medical problems on weekdays.

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/shw/

University Counselling Service

If you wish to talk to somebody outside college, the University Counselling Service at 11 Wellington Square is there to help you with emotional or psychological problems. The service is confidential and staffed by fully trained counsellors and psychotherapists. The Service tracks and manages in the region of 200 students each year who offer first stage support in colleges and departments. You can contact them via the Peer Support Panel in colleges.

Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 270300
or email: reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/shw/counserv.shtml

Oxford Nightline

Nightline is a listening, information and support service run by students, for students. It is open overnight, 8 pm–8 am, every night in term-time. The service is confidential and there is always a male and a female volunteer available. Students can visit the flat at 16 Wellington Square or telephone +44 (0) 1865 270270.

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln/>

Harassment

The University has a code of practice on harassment, making it a disciplinary offence for any member of the University to harass another on any grounds. Each college and department has at least two advisers on harassment (one of each sex); the University also has a harassment hotline.

Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 270760
or email: harassment.line@admin.ox.ac.uk
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har/

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) can also tell you about harassment issues, and college JCRs have their own student welfare officers.

Graduate destinations

What happens after Oxford?



What do employers look for?

All employers want to hire people who are passionate and interested in the job, who achieve things and take responsibility. This applies across the board, from archaeology to zoology, from large multinational corporations to small NGOs. Studying at Oxford can equip you to demonstrate passion, interest, achievement and responsibility. The specific subject you study should be one you are passionate about and, except for vocational courses like medicine, does not necessarily limit what you do after graduating.

You can develop a range of transferable skills at Oxford. For example, organising your time efficiently to meet deadlines and working well on your own as well as in a group – you might do these as a member of a JCR (Junior Common Room) or a club committee. Again, the specific activity is not as important as the fact that you have worked on a project and that you have taken responsibility.

The advantage of the college system (for further details about the collegiate university, see p. 120) is that the opportunities to take part in activities and to develop your skills at Oxford are vast. This is one of the reasons why Oxford graduates are so successful.

Oxford University Careers Service

The key to a successful career search lies in finding out about yourself, such as your interests, motivations and skills, exploring your options, making choices and then taking action. The Oxford University Careers Service has some of the best-resourced facilities and programmes of any university careers service.

Using your vacations

The Careers Service also offers advice and information on how to use your vacations to best effect. You will find vacancies for paid employment, work experience, voluntary work and courses on our website. Increasing numbers of alumni and employers are offering Oxford students international internships which you can find in our extensive jobs database.

An investment in your future

Oxford University has an excellent record for graduate employment. Despite changing economic situations, the long-term employment record of Oxford graduates has consistently remained one of the best in the country, with our graduates entering a wide range of careers, regardless of degree subject. Many also go into further academic study or professional training.

Destinations of first degree graduates

Oxford undergraduates and postgraduates enter a wide range of occupations; six months after graduation, 90% of those who graduated in 2007 were employed or engaged in further study, 5% were not available for work, for example they were travelling, and just 5% were unemployed. 21% were studying for a higher degree, 9% doing legal training, 8% were teaching and 6% were in medical training. The proportion not working has dropped from 14% two years ago to 10%.

www.careers.ox.ac.uk

Dr Robert Tulloh

Medicine, 1984

Consultant in Paediatric Cardiology at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

The post requires me to look after children from the South West and Wales with heart disease, undertaking cardiac catheterisation, inpatient and outpatient care and echocardiography. I spend time teaching, doing research, and travelling abroad. I'm also a tutor at Oxford: this gives me the opportunity to be able to provide support for the undergraduates of today.

Catherine Bray

English, 2004

Commissioning Editor for the 4Talent Central website for Channel 4

Before my current role, I worked as a film journalist for two years after graduating from Oxford. I write my own articles, interview people like the writers of *Peep Show*, and I also commission freelance writers to deliver articles and podcasts. My degree helped me become more organised and pay attention to detail, and also gave me the confidence you need for a media career. I would probably never have been able to travel to places like Moscow and New York to meet film stars and directors if I hadn't become a journalist.

Jessica Imhoff

Mathematical Sciences, 1999

Programme Manager at UBS Investment Bank

I am the Programme Manager for a proprietary modelling library at UBS Investment Bank. While studying at Oxford, I learnt how to manage a busy workload with conflicting priorities. The tutorial system prepared me for working closely with people much more senior than myself. Combining this with my mathematical grounding has enabled me to take on this challenging career where I am constantly surrounded by a range of interesting and intelligent people.

Melinda Kenneway

Experimental Psychology, 1988

Director at TBI Communications Ltd

TBI Communications is a marketing agency, based in Oxford, serving academic and professional publishers and societies. In my role as Director, I manage both the development and growth of our business and oversee our client work.

Studying at Oxford was the perfect foundation for this kind of work. I was taught to always look for big ideas, to challenge the status quo, and to take responsibility for myself – for life – for my own ongoing learning. These skills are the basics of entrepreneurship, and have enabled me to develop and run a successful business.

Adam Kramer

Jurisprudence, 1999

Commercial Barrister at 3 Verulam Buildings chambers

As a commercial barrister (based in a chambers in Gray's Inn in London) I spend a lot of time advising upon or arguing legal points, namely points of law rather than questions of fact and evidence. The academic background of those at the commercial Bar (probably more than in the case of commercial solicitors) is therefore of paramount importance, and frankly being taught by and with the best and the brightest makes the Oxford law undergraduate degree the perfect training for what I do.

Susan Smith

Geography, 2006

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

I am currently in my second year working within the Banking and Capital Markets division of Assurance in Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC). Although I have not used my geography knowledge specifically at PwC, my enthusiasm to learn and self-motivation have stood me in good stead. Within my division at PwC you are given a lot of responsibility very quickly and so I have found that my confidence in taking ownership of a piece of work has stemmed from my many weekly geography essays as well as my finals dissertation. Playing sport for my college taught me a lot about team work and my roles within OUSU provided me with great organisational skills.

Luke Alexander

Classics, 2006

Account Manager at Four Communications Group

A Classics degree prepares you for a surprising number of different careers, but I never expected to end up in Public Relations. Straight out of university I applied to the graduate scheme at Four Communications, a fast-growing independent PR firm based in London. The variety of work has been astounding and occasionally overwhelming. I really think the flexibility and discipline required in my degree has helped me cope with a year meeting clients, copywriting, researching and managing a variety of corporate and consumer clients in our London, Bahrain, Dubai and Abu Dhabi offices.

Sarah Livermore

Physics, 2002

DPhil in Particle Physics at Oxford

Since graduating I've worked in public sector management, with central government and Transport for London. However, I had an increasing desire to return to physics since it's such an exciting subject. I applied to courses at three universities and the interviews required me to revise a lot of my undergraduate degree. This was a considerable challenge after almost six years out of university. However I was really pleased to get an offer from Oxford. I'll be analysing data from the Large Hadron Collider, the new experiment at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). My particular focus will be on a grand unified theory of the four fundamental forces through a study of the creation and decay of very tiny (and not dangerous!) black holes.

Student finance

When you have read this summary of costs and funding, we recommend that you download our *Undergraduate Finance Guide* from www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/finance/ and look at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/

We aim to ensure no UK student is put off applying to Oxford because of the cost. The University has very generous bursaries and a network of support, backed up by the colleges.

Costs

Students have three main costs:

- 1) university tuition fees
- 2) college fees (for some students)
- 3) living expenses.

Fee rates usually increase each year.

University tuition fees: UK and EU

Like most English universities, Oxford fixed its annual tuition fee in 2009 at £3,225. The 2010–11 fees will appear online at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/fees/ as soon as they are known. UK and EU students can pay tuition fees at the start of each year or they can go to the Student Loans Company (SLC) for a tuition fee loan; this is paid directly to the University.

See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/fees/classification.shtml to check whether you are eligible to pay tuition fees at the Home/EU rate. EU students outside the UK should contact the EU Customer Services Team on +44 (0) 141 2433570 or email: eu_team@slc.co.uk. Also see: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu/.

Second undergraduate degrees

If you plan to study for your second undergraduate degree, please consult our website – www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/fees/ – because different fees apply.

University tuition fees: Overseas

University tuition fees for Overseas (non-EU) students in 2010–11 have not yet been decided. Fees vary with the course. For guidance, these were the annual fees payable in 2009–10:

- BTh in Theology, £10,100
- Most courses in Social Sciences, Humanities or Human Sciences, £11,750
- Science subjects, including joint degrees, involving a laboratory-based element, Computer Science, Music and Fine Art, £13,450
- Clinical Medicine (which is the last three years of the Medicine course), £24,500

College fees

Students who apply for and are eligible for UK Government support do not pay a college fee. Overseas students, along with those reading for a second undergraduate degree or unable to prove their eligibility for public support, pay a college fee. This varies between colleges and is typically over £5,000 a year.

Living expenses

Living costs for an Oxford student in college rooms in 2008–9 averaged about £6,500 per year, including meals and other living costs. Room rents and meal charges vary so please see individual college websites for details.

Costs are higher for Overseas students who do not go home during vacations. In 2008–9, a student living in Oxford for all 12 months would spend at least £10,500.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Rachael Featherstone

Mathematics, New College

I looked into the financial side of university quite a bit. Because my mum is a part-time primary school teacher I knew I needed some assistance and I found out about the Oxford Opportunity Bursary.

It has meant that I have been able to come here without any financial worry. I found Oxford just as cheap as any other university I could have gone to study at.

Funding

UK Government grants and loans

The government offers maintenance loans to Home (UK) students. The maximum amount depends on where you live and your household income, but a minimal maintenance loan is available to all Home students. Maintenance grants are paid to students from low-income households.

Region (year of entry)	England (2009)	Northern Ireland (2009)	Scotland (2008)	Wales (2009)
Maximum grant	£2,906	£3,406	£2,095	£2,906
Household income for maximum grant	up to £25,000	up to £18,820	up to £18,820	up to £18,370
Non-means-tested maintenance loan	£3,564	£3,559	£890	£3,559

For more about thresholds and what support you might get from the government or the University, see www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/finance/.

English students apply to Student Finance England, either on paper or online at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance/.

Welsh students apply to their local authority for funding, either on paper or online at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk.

Scottish students apply to the Student Awards Agency for Scotland, either on paper or online at www.saas.gov.uk. The amount of funding available to Scottish students is lower than that for students from other parts of the UK.

Students from Northern Ireland apply to their Education and Library Board, either on paper or online at www.studentfinancenir.co.uk.

Students from the Channel Islands and Isle of Man have their own funding systems and are not eligible for UK Government funds or Oxford Opportunity Bursaries.

Loan repayment

If you take out a maintenance loan or tuition fee loan from the SLC, you do not start repaying the loan until after you graduate or leave your course, and only then when you are earning more than £15,000 per year. See www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk for more information.

Oxford Opportunity Bursaries

No UK student should be put off applying or taking up a place at Oxford because of their financial circumstances. For this reason, the University has set up one of the most generous bursary schemes in the UK to help those students with the least financial resources with their basic living costs. Those who receive the full government maintenance grant and maximum Oxford Opportunity Bursary should have sufficient funds for their basic living costs in term-time.

Household income	Oxford Opportunity Bursary	Start-up (first year only)
up to £17,999	£3,225	£875
£18,000 to £25,000	£3,225	£0
£25,000 to £50,000	£3,225 to £200	£0

For more information, see www.oxfordopportunity.com.

The government's Student Loans Company (SLC) offers tuition fee loans up to the full amount, without any income assessment.

If you are studying for your second undergraduate degree, you will not usually be eligible for government grants and loans or Oxford Opportunity Bursaries; download our *Undergraduate Finance Guide* from www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/finance/ to find out more.

Enhanced Bursaries

The University has links with organisations who offer additional awards and usually keep in touch with the recipient. Students receiving an Oxford Opportunity Bursary can apply for these awards if they are reading eligible subjects, but only in their first year. The awards, worth £1,000 for each year of the course, are the IBM Bursary (one or two), BP Bursary (up to 10), Citi Foundation Bursary (up to 13), and Oxford-Man Group Scholarship (up to 15).

Other Oxford awards

The University administers some awards by competition. Applications for the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Scholarships can be accepted from January 2010. Further details of scholarships can be found at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/scholarship_profiles/.

Situational support

Extra financial help may be available to disabled students and students with children. For details, see pages 12 and 13.

International students

For overseas students' awards, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/studentfunding/scholarship_profiles. Candidates from low-income countries who can show academic excellence may apply for a Reach Oxford scholarship – details are on the same webpage.

Colleges usually ask candidates for details of their proposed funding, some months before the academic year starts in October, and they may require guarantees, regardless of nationality. This is to ensure that students do not start a course that they cannot afford to finish. It is *not* possible to fund your course by paid work during term-time.

College funds

Colleges offer bursaries to help with living expenses, study costs (such as book grants), the cost of travel for academic purposes and accommodation costs for study outside term-time. There are also awards for academic achievement. See the college websites for details.

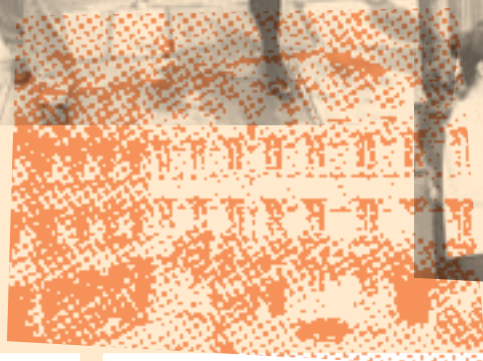
Employment

Students are not usually allowed to take paid employment in term-time, except possibly for a few hours a week working for your college, for example in the library. But you may consider working in vacations to supplement your income and gain valuable work experience.

Further information

You can get a copy of the government's *Guide to Financial Support for Higher Education Students* by calling 0800 731 9133 or textphone 0800 328 8988, or you can download it from www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance/ where there is further information about financial support. For a free DVD about student funding, call 0800 587 8500.

Where will I live?



Your room is arranged

Undergraduate students must live in Oxford, but there is no need to look for accommodation before you arrive. All colleges provide rooms for first-year students, and make all the arrangements for you. Your college may send you details of your room after places are confirmed in August, or they may simply give you the keys when you arrive. Most college rooms are single study-bedrooms, and you may have your own bathroom. Some colleges have 'sets' where two students share a study-living room, but you have your own bedroom. All rooms are furnished; some have an internal telephone and internet points. Your room may be on the main site or nearby.

Living in and living out

Colleges are very safe places, with a Porters' Lodge at the entrance. The porters deal with visitors and oversee security. They get to know you and look after your personal safety.

All colleges will offer you a room for your first year and another year; in many colleges, you can 'live in' for your whole course. If you do have to 'live out' of college, or you prefer to, you can share a house with friends or rent a room in a family home. The University accommodation office will be able to help you with your search: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/private/. Living out can be a little more expensive than living in college, but it means you can stay on in vacations. Students in college rooms usually have to move out at the end of each term.

All college rooms are either in the city centre or very close to it. Most private accommodation is also within a 15-minute walk or short cycle ride

of the centre. In Oxford, there is no need to spend money on bus fares, as you would in larger cities.

Throughout your course, wherever you live, you can use your college's library, computer room, sports facilities, laundry, bar, common room and dining hall – this serves three meals every day. You need to bring your own clothes, music and posters, of course! If you wish to cook, you may need to bring some kitchenware; your college will tell you what is provided.

Out of term

In vacations, your college may be able to provide storage, particularly for overseas students. You may be able to stay on in college, or stay with friends who are living out. Some people use this time to work and prepare for next term; others just enjoy being in Oxford.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Gareth:

Living in college is a new experience. Everyone is apprehensive – what to expect, who they will meet – but it is great. You live next to someone studying something completely unrelated: you connect over coffee breaks. When you need help, friends from your course are only a few steps away, which makes it easy to sort through any problems with work. You should never be late for anything: tutorial, lecture, football practice, meal or trip to the pub, someone will knock on your door to remind you! The friendships I made in college have lasted the longest – working, partying, playing football and pool with those in my college enabled me to get to know them better than any other friends I have.

Nina:

I had to live out in my second year. As it turned out, it was great to explore more of Oxford. I rented a house with friends in Jericho, just a few minutes away from my college. It was fantastic.

I think the year I spent living out was when I really became attached to Oxford as a city and not just as a university; it was fantastic to have a wider variety of bars and restaurants on our doorstep, as well as more greenery nearby.

Living with five friends, from both arts and sciences backgrounds, meant that we never got bored of hearing each other moan or rhapsodise about our essays and tutorials, good and bad!