



Oxford Prospects and  
**Global Development**  
Institute



# **Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute Visiting Student Programme 2021-2022**

## **About the University of Oxford**

The University of Oxford is one of the most illustrious universities in the world, founded in 1250 with some colleges' histories stretching back even further. It is a member of the prestigious Russell Group in the United Kingdom (similar to the Ivy League in the United States). The University of Oxford holds a well-deserved reputation for world-class teaching, research and facilities. Oxford students benefit from centrally organised lectures, seminars and lab time, and from the collegiate system of small-group teaching (called a tutorial) that takes place in its colleges. This approach provides individual support and guidance, enabling students to thrive academically, whilst offering countless opportunities to become involved with extra-curricular activities. The College is the focus of both the student's academic and social life.

## **About the Visiting Student Programme**

The Visiting Student Programme is open to select Chinese partner universities through OPGDI's established Oxford Prospects Programmes. The Visiting Student Programme offers suitably qualified students the opportunity to come to Oxford as Registered Visiting Students of the University of Oxford and as members of one of our partner colleges: Regent's Park, Mansfield,



Pembroke, Worcester, Blackfriars, St. Anne's and St. Peter's. Visiting Students study for the whole or part of one academic year, on the same courses taken by full-time undergraduate students and studying alongside them in tutorials and lectures.

Our aim is to give Visiting Students the chance to experience the unique opportunities provided by study at Oxford while earning credit from their home institutions. Visiting Students have access to all of Oxford University's academic and social facilities, including the Bodleian Library, faculty (subject) libraries, the Oxford University Computing Services, and the wealth of lectures organized by the University throughout the academic year. Visiting Students automatically become life-time members of their host Oxford College.



## The Academic Year

	Term	From	To
2021-2022	Michaelmas 2021	Sunday, 10 October	Saturday, 4 December
	Hilary 2022	Sunday, 16 January	Saturday, 12 March
	Trinity 2022	Sunday, 24 April	Saturday, 18 June

Each of the three terms in Oxford comprises eight teaching weeks. Terms are intense with an impressive amount of academic, sporting, and other social activities packed in. This intensity means that it is not advisable to leave Oxford during term-time, although many Visiting Students take the opportunity to travel between terms.

## Application Requirements

- **GPA of 3.7** (minimum, based on a 4.0 GPA system). Up-to-date academic transcript must be provided in English translation.
- **Photocopy of IELTS/TOEFL certificate showing:**  
**Standard Level Scores:** IELTS overall score of 7.0 (minimum 6.5 per component). For TOEFL the required score is minimum 100, with component scores of at least: Listening 22, Reading 24, Speaking 25, and Writing 24.

**Higher Level Scores:** IELTS overall score of 7.5 (minimum 7.0 per component). For TOEFL the required score is minimum 110, with component scores of at least: Listening 22, Reading 24, Speaking 25, and Writing 24.

**ONLY** these courses accept Standard Level: Computer Science, Mathematics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics.

**ALL other courses require Higher Level.**

- **Personal Statement (up to 500 words)** You should provide a brief account of your studies to date and an explanation of how a year at Oxford University would fit into your educational plans. You should specify the main subjects you wish to study, with explanation of how these relate to courses already completed at your home university. This will be assessed with respect to: your reasons for applying to this particular course of study; evidence of your motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of study; your ability to present a reasoned case in English; the academic attributes that you will bring to the programme; the knowledge and skills that you hope to gain; your commitment to the subject; and the relevance of this year of study to your future career/academic development plans.
- **Two samples of recently completed written work**, in English and marked if possible, and preferably in the subject/s for which you are applying.
- **Two academic references** from people well placed to comment on your academic aptitude and achievement and on your learning style. References must be on official headed paper, signed by the referee and including their contact details.
- **Application form**
- **A recent passport format photograph**
- **Photocopy of passport**

## **Academic Subjects**

Oxford colleges do not specialise in particular subject areas, as they all excel in all subjects that they teach. Most colleges offer most courses. Please specify your subject options in the application form.

## Deadlines and Procedures

Applicants are required to prepare for and take the English Language Tests (IELTS or TOEFL) ahead of time, preferably between your first and second year of university.

- **Mid-September:** Applications open.
- **7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021:** Application deadline.
- **End of March to end of April:** Expect to hear back regarding the status of your application and receive any offers.
- **April to July:** Confirm your acceptance of the offer, complete required procedures, and receive CAS information to apply for your visa.
- **September/October:** Arrive in Oxford as a Registered Visiting Student at the University of Oxford.

## Indicative Fees

Fees vary between Colleges, and there are supplementary tuition fees for some course subjects. Colleges adjust their fees each year, and fees for 2021/2022 have not yet been announced.

As a guide, below are **example fees for the current Academic Year 2020/2021**. These cover the period mid-October to mid-June, encompassing Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity terms. Please enquire for reduced fees for single or two term options, and higher fees for extended year pattern.

Tuition fee starting from	£ 26,000 subject-dependent
Accommodation fee starts from	£ 7,000 for the most basic accommodation option
Meals in College starts from	£ 1,500 varies by College and meal plan
<b>Minimum</b> current year	£ 34,500

Please consult with and send application materials through your home university.

For enquiries, you may also contact OPGDI's Liaison Officer:

Dr Jason Lu at [vsp@oxford-prospects.com](mailto:vsp@oxford-prospects.com)

## The Tutorial System

Tutorial teaching and learning is unique to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, so it is important to understand what is involved in this educational method which you will experience as a Visiting Student. Tutorials foster a close relationship between the tutor and the student thanks to the individual attention that students receive. Tutorials are particularly beneficial for developing skills and capacities of critical analysis, requiring students to critique primary and secondary literature and challenge the boundaries and assumptions of their thinking.

### What is a tutorial?

Tutorials are at the heart of your learning experience at Oxford. They are weekly, sometimes fortnightly (every two weeks) meetings with an academic who specialises in your subject of study. Tutorials may be either one-on-one or shared with one or two other students, usually lasting for one or one-and-a-half hours.

The tutorials consist of discussion with the tutor and any fellow student “tutees” of your previously prepared work. Normally this work takes the form of essays of approximately 2000 words, or solutions of set problems, or reports of lab work. These tutorial discussions provide for in-depth exploration of topics from different perspectives. Each student is expected to analyse critically their own work and any relevant scholarship. Students are expected to formulate their own ideas and express them eloquently in the discussion, supporting arguments and posing questions.



### What is a typical tutorial course load?

Each Oxford degree course is divided into *papers* – in another university these might be called modules or classes. An Oxford undergraduate usually studies 1.5 papers each term: one for 8 weeks and one for 4 weeks. These papers can be seen as the equivalent to the American university system of a course ‘Major’ (the 8-week paper) and ‘Minor’ (the 4-week paper). In fulfilling these papers, a Visiting Student carries the same course load as all full-time Oxford students.

This may not sound demanding compared to the timetable of classes, lectures and seminars of a full-time student schedule in non-tutorial universities. However, in the tutorial system, an average term’s workload will consist of 12 x

2000-words essays, involving students in 40 hours per week of independent study, research, writing and preparation.

As a Visiting Student, you will be studying very much full-time, so we strongly advise against working on any academic projects from home universities, such as a dissertation, while you are at Oxford. Students who have attempted to do this in the past have put themselves under unnecessary amounts of pressure, and not been able to make the most of the precious opportunities Oxford offers.

University of Oxford regulations require students to be resident in Oxford from the start of 0<sup>th</sup> Week through to the conclusion of 8<sup>th</sup> Week every term. Absence of even a single day requires your tutor's advance approval.

### **How is my work assessed?**

Your tutor will read and provide feedback (usually written comments) on every piece of your work. Some tutors ask students to read out their essays in the tutorial; more typically, tutors ask students to submit their essays in advance, generally on the evening before the tutorial. Tutors do not usually provide numerical or letter grades for individual pieces of work. Instead they concentrate on formative assessment: commenting, critiquing, advising, asking follow-up questions.

At the end of each term, tutors write reports on each student's learning and progress, and award an overall numerical grade based on criteria similar to those by which full-time students are assessed. This final grade reflects the standard of the student's written work, plus an assessment their performance in tutorials. There is normally no requirement for Visiting Students to sit any examinations.

### **What about lectures and classes?**

Visiting Students are strongly encouraged to attend those Departmental lectures coinciding with their field of study and research interests. For some subjects, such as English Literature, lectures are not compulsory, but for others, such as Mathematics, they may be. Your tutor will offer guidance and advice about which lectures suit your own learning and research needs. Similarly, there may be classes or seminars within your College or in the University Department associated with your field of study which are advisable for your educational programme. Again, your tutor will be best placed to guide on this.



## About the Colleges

Oxford University is made up of 44 Colleges and Halls, alongside its numerous Faculty Departments, research institutes and other associated educational entities. Though interlinked within the University structure, each College is its own identifiable and independent academic community. Every College has its own accommodation, dining hall, bar, Common Room and library, classrooms and meeting spaces, gardens and 'Quads', plus a rich range of groups and societies. Every Oxford undergraduate student is at once a member of their particular College of the University as a whole. Colleges offer a very wide range of courses and excel in those subject fields, often with world-leading expertise among their community of scholars. Each student receives a very similar Oxford experience and education, whichever College they join.

Visiting Students generally find that they do not have significant expenses beyond their tuition fee and living costs, while they are in Oxford. The accommodation on our programme is provided on a self-catering basis, but students have the option of eating in their College dining hall, where meal costs are subsidised.



### Mansfield College

Mansfield College prioritises full year applications but does consider applications for two terms of study (January – June) on a case by case basis.

**Courses include:** English, Economics (includes Finance), Geography, History, Human Sciences, Management, Oriental Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Statistics, Theology and Religion, History of Art.



### Pembroke College

Pembroke admits Visiting Students only for the full Academic Year.

**Courses include:** Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Economics, English, English & Modern Languages, History, History & Economics, History & English, History & Modern Languages, History & Politics, Law, Mathematics, Maths & Philosophy, Modern Languages, Oriental Studies (Arabic, Islamic Studies, Japanese, Chinese), Philosophy, Philosophy & Modern Languages, Politics, Politics Philosophy & Economics (PPE), Philosophy Psychology & Linguistics (PPL), Psychology, Theology.



## Regent's Park College

Regent's Park College prefers applications for a full year of study but will also consider applications for two terms (January-June).

**Courses include:** English, Classics, Geography, History, Philosophy, Theology & Religion, Politics, International Relations, Economics, History of Art, Mathematics, Politics Philosophy & Economics (PPE).



## Worcester College

Worcester College offers September Seminar + Michaelmas term + Hilary term + Trinity term (an extended academic year).

**Courses include:** Economics & Business, Philosophy, Maths, Physics, Politics, English, Classics, Geography, Computer Science, British History.



## Blackfriars Hall

Blackfriars Hall generally accommodates visiting students in nearby houses, but many eat their meals at a nearby Hall of the University.

**Courses include:** English Literature, Classics, British History, Philosophy, Psychology and Theology.



## St. Anne's College

The study terms available for St. Anne's College are the full academic year: Michaelmas + Hilary + Trinity.

**Courses include:** Archaeology & Anthropology, Biochemistry, Classics, Comparative Literature, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Economics, English, Engineering, Experimental Psychology, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Oriental Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Pre-medicine, Physics, Law.



## St. Peter's College

St. Peter's College admits Visiting Students only for the full Academic Year.

**Courses include:** Archaeology & Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences, Engineering, English Language & Literature, Geography, History, Management, Mathematics & Statistics, Modern Languages, Neuroscience, Physics, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), Theology.