



# SUPPORTING AN OXFORD APPLICANT **A PARENTS' AND CARERS' GUIDE**





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For comprehensive information on our admissions process and an insight into student life at Oxford, see: **OX.AC.UK/STUDY**.

 @studyatoxford

 youtube.com/Oxford

 @OxOutreach

 ox.ac.uk/itunesu

**OX?LORE** www.oxplore.org



4499

As well as being the Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, I am the mother of two sons; I know that young people seem to have more choices than ever before. It's not always easy to know how best to help them navigate their options. My approach is always to make sure I'm as informed as possible – at least then I have half a chance of being listened to!

We have written this guide to give you as much information as possible about studying at Oxford University – especially how your son or daughter can choose their course, and then make the strongest possible application. We want you to know that students are in safe hands at Oxford, so we have given details of all the support we offer, both during their time here, and after they have graduated. There's support for you too: if you've got any questions, please get in touch – we really are happy to help. Alternatively, visit our website: [ox.ac.uk/study](http://ox.ac.uk/study).

### Dr Samina Khan

Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach

There's an overwhelming amount of information out there, and your child may need some sort of parental magic to sort through it all. Just make sure they find out the truth, that Oxford students are a normal bunch of brighter-than-average students, who oversleep, waste time slouched in front of the TV, leave their work to the last minute and have friends from every kind of school, social background and area imaginable – just like students everywhere else!

ALISON



## WHY COME TO OXFORD?

Oxford is recognised as one of the most exciting and rewarding places to study by many able students across the world. The University has been famous for its academic and research excellence for hundreds of years and it retains a special place in the hearts of those who live, study and teach here. These are just some of the aspects of Oxford that make the University a great place to spend your student years:

- Regular personalised teaching and academic discussion through our renowned tutorial system  
**[ox.ac.uk/oxforddegree](https://ox.ac.uk/oxforddegree)**
- Generous scholarships, bursaries and college support fund  
P17 and **[ox.ac.uk/funding](https://ox.ac.uk/funding)**
- Over 100 libraries and 5 world-class museums and collections  
**[ox.ac.uk/resources](https://ox.ac.uk/resources)**
- Supportive and inclusive college communities  
P9 and **[ox.ac.uk/ugcolls](https://ox.ac.uk/ugcolls)**
- Access to exclusive internships and work experience  
**[ox.ac.uk/build-your-future](https://ox.ac.uk/build-your-future)**
- Undergraduate research opportunities  
**[ox.ac.uk/ugp/exceptionaleducation](https://ox.ac.uk/ugp/exceptionaleducation)**
- Over 400 University-wide clubs and societies  
**[ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities](https://ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities)**
- Extensive welfare and support networks  
**[ox.ac.uk/students/shw](https://ox.ac.uk/students/shw)**
- A beautiful, historic and student-focused city  
**[ox.ac.uk/ugp/livingin](https://ox.ac.uk/ugp/livingin)**
- A world-famous university with global influence  
**[ox.ac.uk/ugp/international-oxford](https://ox.ac.uk/ugp/international-oxford)**



Oxford gave me confidence to argue my point and think for myself, and opened doors to the best employers in the country.

**GARY, MANAGING DIRECTOR CD (UK) LTD**

**NO. 1**  
**IN THE WORLD**  
*Times Higher Education World  
University Rankings 2019*

**NEARLY**  
**250** COURSES

**IN GROUPS OF**  
**2 OR 3** FOR SPECIALISED  
TUTORIAL  
TEACHING

**FROM OVER**  
**30** FACULTIES AND  
DEPARTMENTS



## UNIQ

UNIQ is a free access programme of residentials and digital content run by the University of Oxford for UK state-school students in year 12. The programme aims to support pupils who would do well at Oxford but lack the confidence to apply. We welcome over 1,300 pupils to Oxford for 5 days where they have the opportunity to study a chosen subject, experience undergraduate life and receive first-hand support on making a competitive application. We also have an online platform, UNIQ Digital, which provides students with mentoring, activities and application advice. It is available to all UNIQ participants plus 1000 further students who miss out on a residential place.

[uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://uniq.ox.ac.uk)

## OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Oxford and Cambridge are very similar in many ways, but there are some differences too. You can't apply to both Oxford and Cambridge in the same year. For more information, please see [ox.ac.uk/oxford-and-cambridge](http://ox.ac.uk/oxford-and-cambridge).





## WHO STUDIES AT OXFORD?

Contrary to popular belief, there is no Oxford type. There are nearly 12,000 undergraduate students here from all types of UK school and from all over the world. Oxford is committed to recruiting the very best students nationally and internationally through an equitable process based on achievement and potential.

### Does it matter where my child is at school?

Definitely not. We currently spend over £7m a year on outreach activities to encourage able students to apply, whatever their background. We run events in Oxford, across the UK and around the world to make sure that potential applicants know how to apply, and how to make the most competitive application. P22 and [ox.ac.uk/outreach](https://ox.ac.uk/outreach)

### Contextual data

Oxford believes that, where possible, it is important to consider a student's application within the context it is made. For example, when considering each application, we take into account the performance of the candidate's school at GCSE and A-level; socio-economic circumstances by home postcode; and whether an applicant has been in care. [ox.ac.uk/context](https://ox.ac.uk/context)

Oxford has over 4,000 students registered with our Disability Advisory Service. We welcome applications from those with disabilities and make reasonable adjustments to facilitate their access to our courses.

[ox.ac.uk/swd](https://ox.ac.uk/swd)

Oxford is committed to supporting students from a care background to ensure that they receive the help they need in order to have a successful university experience.

[ox.ac.uk/students/shw/careleavers](https://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/careleavers)

### Would Oxford be the right choice for my child?

There is no simple answer to this question but it might be helpful to ask yourself the following about your son or daughter:

- Do they have a good academic record, and often come top in their class?
- Do they love to talk about their favourite subject with their teachers and friends?
- Do they spend time reading beyond their school syllabus?
- Are they keen to be taught by world experts?

If this sounds like your child, then they would probably enjoy studying at Oxford.

## TOP TIPS

Encourage your child to talk to tutors at our Open Days  
[ox.ac.uk/opendays](https://ox.ac.uk/opendays)

“““

There's no type of student at Oxford. It's beautifully diverse.

ADITI

## WHAT ARE THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS?

Choice of A-levels (or equivalent qualifications) can be critical in determining which university courses will be open to your child. This means it is really important they think ahead to what they might like to study later and make sure they are taking the right combination of subjects. Your child will need to get top grades to be able to make a strong application, so encourage them to study subjects they enjoy and where they are likely to do well.

### Do extra-curricular activities help?

Some universities look for applicants who demonstrate a wide range of skills and interests such as sport, drama or music. Oxford tutors are interested in applicants' academic ability and potential. Extra-curricular activities are only taken into account in so far as they demonstrate the selection criteria for the course.

### How many subjects should my child study?

Oxford offers are usually based on three A-levels, or equivalent qualifications. Some candidates take a fourth or fifth subject as this can be one way of demonstrating the academic abilities required for an Oxford degree. However, this may not be the best way for your child to demonstrate their abilities. Tutors may prefer a candidate who has read around their subject beyond their school work and who can discuss this with enthusiasm and depth.

### Conditional offers

If your child applies to us in their last year at school or college, any offer they receive will probably be conditional on their final grades.

## TOP TIPS

Advise your child against spreading themselves too thinly across too many subjects if they risk dropping a grade or two in their results.

## AGE AND STAGE

We support the general principle of an accelerated curriculum but still expect students to achieve at the highest level.



- **A-levels:** ranging between **A\*A\*A** and **AAA** depending on the course, excluding General Studies. Applicants need to have taken and passed any practical component in any chosen science subjects.
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** **AA** if taking two subjects, **AAB** if taking three.
- **Pre-U:** ranging between **D2, D2, D3** and **D3, D3, D3** depending on the course.
- **International Baccalaureate:** **38–40** points, depending on the course (including core points).

Other equivalent qualifications are also acceptable. [ox.ac.uk/enreqs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/enreqs)

Many of our courses have specific subject requirements.

[ox.ac.uk/courses](https://www.ox.ac.uk/courses)



## HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Oxford applicants must submit a UCAS online form and register for our admissions tests anytime from early September to 15 October in the year before they hope to begin their degree course. This is earlier than most other universities.

### UCAS application

Your child can start working on their UCAS form anytime from June at [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) – so encourage them not leave it to the last minute. The deadline for submitting UCAS applications is 6pm UK time on 15 October.

### Admissions tests

For most courses, your child will also be required to take a test, normally at their own school or college but sometimes in an open test centre. Make sure they speak to their school about registering in plenty of time before the final registration deadline: 6pm UK time on 15 October. The best way to confirm they are registered is to ask for their candidate entry number.

(Please note that Law has different arrangements.)

Applicants can find all the information they need to know about registration and how to prepare for our tests at: [ox.ac.uk/tests](https://ox.ac.uk/tests).

### November: Written work

They may also need to send in written work as part of their application.

[ox.ac.uk/writwork](https://ox.ac.uk/writwork)

### December: Interviews

Shortlisting decisions are made in late November or early December. If shortlisted, your child will be invited to come to a college in December for their interview(s).

[ox.ac.uk/interviews](https://ox.ac.uk/interviews)

### January: Decisions

By mid-January your child will be told whether or not their application has been successful. If they have not yet completed the necessary qualifications, then any offer made will be a conditional offer, and they will have until August to achieve the required grades.

### Spring: Finance

Student finance applications open in the spring. P17–18 and [ox.ac.uk/funding](https://ox.ac.uk/funding)

## TOP TIPS

- Download a copy of our admissions timeline: [ox.ac.uk/apply](https://ox.ac.uk/apply)
- Have a look at the UCAS Parent Guide at [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) and sign up to receive their parents' newsletter.
- If your son or daughter is thinking of taking a gap year, make sure that they have some plans in mind. Tutors will want to see that students will be working, travelling or doing further study, rather than just wanting to take time out.
- If your child is considering applying for deferred entry, make sure they check with the department first.
- Encourage your child to leave lots of time to write their personal statement and prepare for any admissions tests they need to take. [ox.ac.uk/ucas](https://ox.ac.uk/ucas)

# HOW DO YOU CHOOSE A COURSE?

Choosing their course is the most important decision that your child will need to make when applying to university. They will spend the next three or four years studying for their degree so it is really important that they are doing a course they love. All courses have some compulsory topics plus lots of options to suit students and their particular interests.

## Will course choice affect my child's employment prospects?

Students and parents often believe that vocational degrees like Medicine and Law offer better career outcomes. However, employment surveys show that Oxford graduates in all subjects are highly sought after for their valued skill sets. Most graduate job adverts do not specify a degree subject.

P19 and [ox.ac.uk/build-your-future](https://ox.ac.uk/build-your-future)

## Are some courses easier to get into?

The average success rate is around one in six but this does vary – for example, it's around one in ten for Medicine. However, fewer candidates does not mean weaker candidates: all courses at Oxford are very competitive.

## Joint courses

These offer the chance to study two or more subjects together and an opportunity to examine the connections between them. Some subjects such as Philosophy and Economics can only be studied as part of a joint course.



The vast majority of jobs do not specify the subject studied at university; all degree courses equip you with a wide range of valuable employability skills.

JONATHAN BLACK, CAREERS SERVICE

## TOP TIPS

- Suggest your child reads about lots of courses, including some subjects they haven't considered before.
- If possible, bring your child to one of our Open Days so that they can talk to tutors and students about their courses.
- Make sure your child checks the subject requirements for any course they are interested in.
- Encourage them to choose something they love. Tutors look for enthusiasm and commitment to the chosen course.

[ox.ac.uk/courses](https://ox.ac.uk/courses)  
[ox.ac.uk/opendays](https://ox.ac.uk/opendays)  
[ucas.com](https://ucas.com)





# HOW DO YOU CHOOSE A COLLEGE?

Most students love their college, and will tell you that theirs is the best. All colleges have signed up to a Common Framework on Admissions which means the application process is the same for each course at every college. Most colleges offer most courses but it's a good idea for your child to check which colleges offer the course they want to study at.

Your child can express a preference for one college by entering a college campus code on their UCAS application. Each college is different so they may like to consider their:

- **size and age**
- **location:** how close it is to the city centre, their department, the park, the river, the sports centre
- **accommodation:** number of years of college accommodation, where it is, how much it will cost
- **grants or other funding:** as well as any support provided by the University
- **facilities:** all colleges have a library, dining hall and common room but other resources can vary (all students can also use the University's facilities)
- **access:** most colleges have facilities and accommodation for disabled students; however, given the age of the buildings, some areas of some colleges are not accessible for students with mobility issues.

Even if your child does specify a college, other colleges may also interview them, and any of the colleges may offer them a place.

### What if my child doesn't mind?

No problem. Your child can make an open application. They will then be allocated to a college which has relatively fewer applications for their course. Typically, around one in five applicants makes an open application. This does not affect their chances of being offered a place.

### TOP TIPS

You can find more information about our colleges and advice on how to choose one on our website.

- [ox.ac.uk/ugcolls](https://ox.ac.uk/ugcolls)
- [ox.ac.uk/collegechoice](https://ox.ac.uk/collegechoice)
- [ox.ac.uk/whichcolls](https://ox.ac.uk/whichcolls)



I found choosing a college really hard! I chose one to apply to but was interviewed at two colleges and ended up being offered a place at the other one.

IMOGEN



Don't let your child stress about this – I ended up flipping a coin. The tutors will never ask why you chose their college.

ROHAN

## WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

College tutors consider around 23,000 applications for about 3,250 places every year. They look carefully at each, taking into account any existing and predicted grades, the personal statement, academic reference, and performance in any test or written work required for the course. Around 9,700 candidates will be shortlisted and invited to interview in December; most will be interviewed at least twice.

### Interviews

Interviews are an important part of the selection process as they are designed to assess academic ability and potential – not manners or etiquette, appearance or background. Rather like a mini-tutorial, they provide tutors with a valuable opportunity to assess students' potential and motivation in person.

We understand that interviews do worry people so we offer plenty of guidance including sample questions and a video.

[ox.ac.uk/interviews](http://ox.ac.uk/interviews)



My interview experience was actually incredibly positive. I was welcomed by students, shown to my room, escorted to my interviews so I didn't get lost, and there were several activities to take my mind away from the interviews and help me meet other applicants in the same position.

MADELEINE

### What happens next?

By mid-January, all shortlisted candidates receive a letter or email telling them whether or not they have been successful.

[ox.ac.uk/decisions](http://ox.ac.uk/decisions)



Fundamentally the question is: can we teach this person in a tutorial situation and will they thrive in this environment?

ITALIAN TUTOR

### TOP TIPS

Encourage your child to read around their subject. Tutors are looking for candidates who show this level of commitment and enthusiasm for their course.



Read around the subject and spend time trying to understand why things happen, rather than just learning that they do. Quality, not quantity is most important – if you don't understand something, re-read it and spend time thinking about it. Talk it through with your family or friends.

CHEMISTRY TUTOR





# WHAT'S THE WORK LIKE?

Oxford students do work hard, as there is a lot to pack in to each eight-week term. Choosing the right course is really important: workloads feel lighter for students who genuinely love what they are studying. 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.

### Teaching

Teaching is done through both the subject department and the college. College tutorials are central to teaching at Oxford. Tutorials are led by tutors responsible for their students' academic development. Usually they take place with one or two other students in your child's college year group. They offer a level of personalised attention (from academic experts) unavailable at most universities. Students need to prepare an essay or other work for weekly tutorials as well as going to lectures, classes and lab work (depending on their subjects) run by their course department.

[ox.ac.uk/tutorials](http://ox.ac.uk/tutorials)

### Independent study

This is a significant part of all Oxford degree courses. Arts or humanities students 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 their time themselves. Typically, science students have a more structured timetable that is also likely to include time in labs or on fieldwork.

### Assessment

Oxford courses are mainly assessed by exams although, depending on your child's course this may also be through projects, extended essays or dissertations and there might be an oral exam. Typically, exams are divided between First (known as Prelims or Mods) and Final University exams. At Oxford, a student's results in their Finals determine their class of degree.

### International study and research

While at Oxford there are lots of opportunities for students to gain international experience to further their academic, career and personal development. These include studying, working or undertaking research abroad.

[ox.ac.uk/students/goabroad](http://ox.ac.uk/students/goabroad)

“...it initially felt like a bit of a culture shock as the onus to motivate yourself... is completely on you.” SARITA

“The work is tough, which I did expect, but it is manageable... My tutors have always helped me out when I need it, which makes the heavier workload easier to tackle.” LOUIS

## WHAT STUDY SUPPORT IS THERE?

Tutorials are at the heart of study support at Oxford, and allow students to discuss their work with tutors every week. If your child needs any extra help with their course, their tutor will know immediately. Oxford also offers its students extensive and personalised study support through its world-famous facilities and resources.

### Museums

Oxford has seven museums and collections which benefit students in many subject areas.

[glam.ox.ac.uk](http://glam.ox.ac.uk)

### Libraries

Oxford is home to over 100 college and department libraries, including the Bodleian Libraries. Your child will have free access to most if not all of the books they will ever need and plenty of inspiring places to study.

[www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

### IT services

All colleges have computer facilities and the central University IT services also offer support including free training. The University Wi-Fi network covers most of central Oxford.

[it.ox.ac.uk](http://it.ox.ac.uk)

### Language Centre

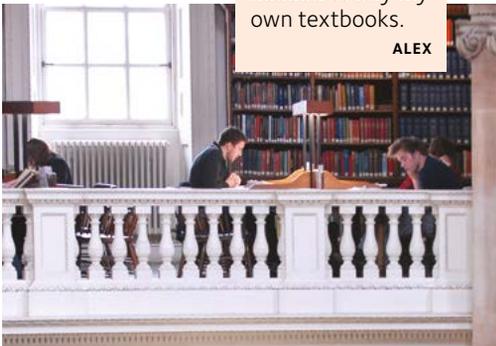
You don't have to be doing a language degree to learn a language whilst studying here. Our Language Centre runs courses in modern languages, from beginner to advanced, to support your studies, career or travel plans. Plus you can improve your academic English on our summer courses before you arrive as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

[www.lang.ox.ac.uk](http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk)

“““

I have never needed to buy my own textbooks.

ALEX



“““

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

“““

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



## WHERE DO STUDENTS LIVE AND EAT?

All students are guaranteed accommodation in college for the first year of their course. This is arranged by the college, so your child won't need to sort it out themselves. All colleges offer accommodation for at least one other year, and some offer accommodation for the whole of a student's course. This may be in the heart of the college or off site somewhere nearby. College rooms are good quality, furnished and may have their own bathroom. Students never have to share a bedroom in college accommodation.

### Out of term

During the vacations, colleges may be able to provide storage, particularly for international students. If your child wants to stay in Oxford, they may be able to arrange to stay in college, or to stay with friends. Some people use this time to work; others just enjoy being in Oxford.

### Living out

Some students decide to share a house with friends in rented accommodation, normally during the later years of their course. This can be a good option if your child wants to live with friends from another college. It does tend to be more expensive as houses are normally rented for a year; during the vacation periods as well as term time.

However, it means that your child would have somewhere to stay if they wanted to study out of term time or take a holiday job in Oxford. Rental accommodation is rarely more than a few minutes from the centre of Oxford and students still have use of all their college's facilities including regular hot meals and washing machines. Many parents feel it is the perfect way for their child to experience a first taste of independent living. The University Accommodation Office helps students find suitable houses to rent.

### Regular meals

All parents know that busy children (whatever their age!) sometimes forget to eat or prefer to spend their money on socialising. However, you may be reassured to know that colleges offer three meals a day, generously subsidised.

All colleges have dining halls and most colleges also have kitchen facilities where students can prepare their own meals.

### Particular requirements

It is important to let the college know as soon as possible if your child has particular requirements.

Contact our Disability Advisory Service for an informal chat or come and talk to them at an Open Day.

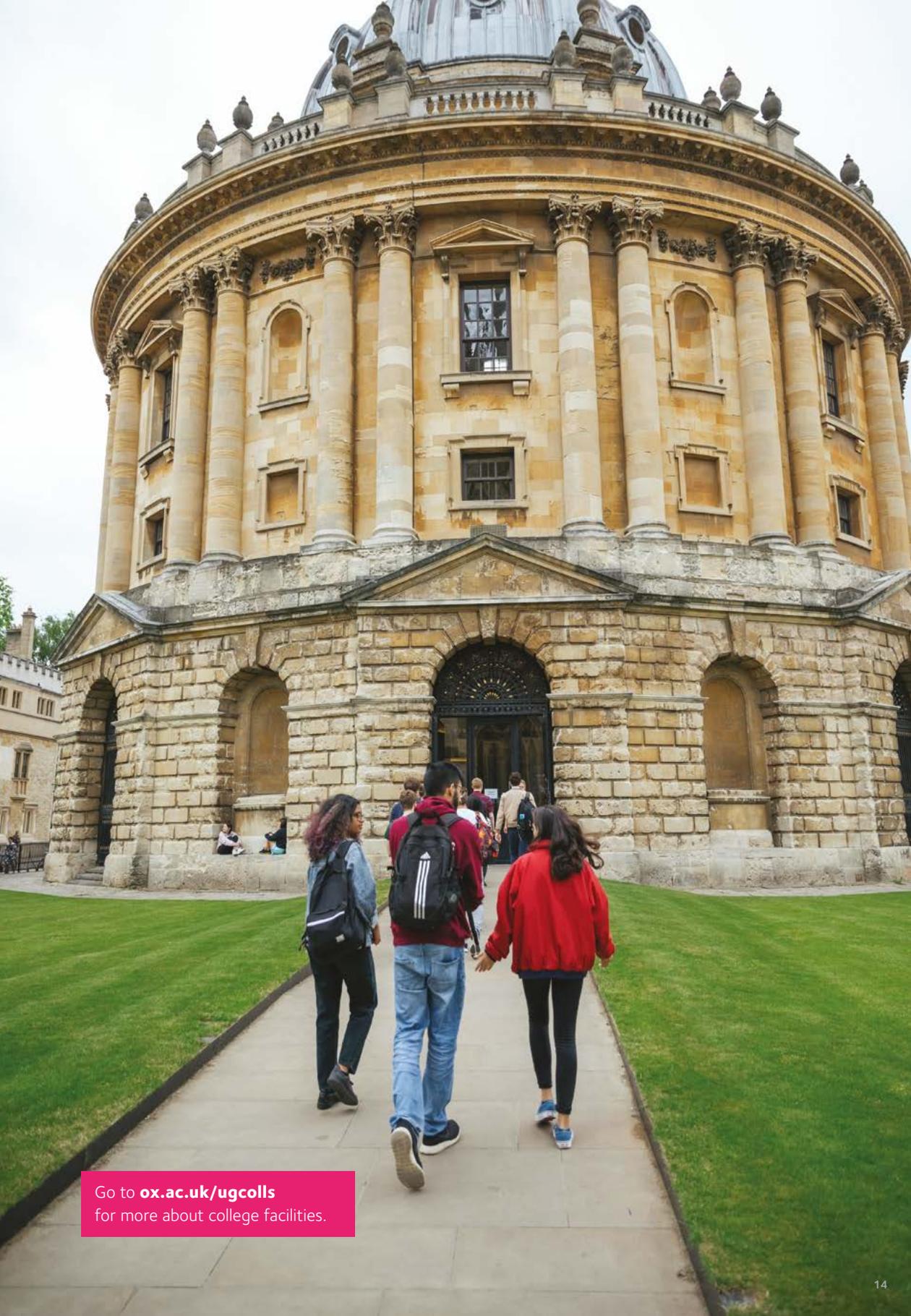
[ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](https://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das)

[ox.ac.uk/opensdays](https://ox.ac.uk/opensdays)



In the first year it's nice to have the support of living in college: it's very easy to meet people but then when we lived out we all lived on the same streets anyway. It's liberating, you feel like you grow up a bit, having to do the washing up and pay the bills. You also get to see a whole other side of Oxford.

JAMES



Go to [ox.ac.uk/ugcolls](https://ox.ac.uk/ugcolls)  
for more about college facilities.



## WHAT ABOUT WELFARE SUPPORT?

Student support and welfare are important priorities for the University. We are committed to maintaining an environment in which the rights and dignity of all members of our community are respected.

### A ready-made support network

One of the benefits of being part of a college community is that there is lots of help on hand if your child runs into difficulty. People available for support would normally include their subject tutor, student 'peer supporters', staff in designated welfare roles, a National Health Service doctor and a college nurse. Colleges are very safe environments. Each has a lodge staffed by college porters who fulfil reception and security duties 24 hours a day.

### Counselling service

The University has a counselling service staffed by fully-trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists. Alongside individual and group sessions, there are workshops and self-help materials available.

[ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](https://ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling)

### Student Advice Service

The Student Advice Service is the independent advice, information and advocacy service exclusively available to Oxford University students. Independent of colleges and the University, they can provide information and support to students facing any difficult situation.

[oxfordsu.org](https://oxfordsu.org)  
[oxfordsu.org/advice](https://oxfordsu.org/advice)

### Oxford Nightline

Nightline is a confidential listening, information and support service run by trained students, for students. It is open 8pm–8am every night in term time. [oxfordnightline.org](https://oxfordnightline.org)

“““

I am one of six trained peer supporters in my college... Oxford is an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment, and my job is to make it even more so.

DANIEL

“““

The welfare reps at my college are amazing. And the counselling service is there too. There's support in every direction – it's brilliant. The welfare service was one of the things that I was most impressed with – as was my mum – it definitely put her at ease!

ISLA

“““

I was convinced somebody had made a mistake letting me into Oxford... My counsellor helped me to understand why I felt a fraud and we worked on how I could change the way I thought about myself. I got a first in Finals!

ZARA

## WHAT DO STUDENTS DO IN THEIR SPARE TIME?

While Oxford students are known for working hard, there is still plenty of time for extra-curricular activities and having fun. There are so many clubs and societies to choose from that the challenge is not to sign up for too many, rather than finding one that is interesting. Many of these opportunities also help students acquire useful life skills that will enhance their CVs.

### Clubs and societies

All students are invited to attend a 'Freshers' Fair' at the start of their first term so that they can join any clubs and societies that interest them. These include societies for music, drama, debating, student journalism, volunteering activities and the Oxford University Student Union (known as Oxford SU), as well as groups for students from particular countries, religious or cultural backgrounds.

[oxfordsu.org](http://oxfordsu.org)

[ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities](http://ox.ac.uk/ugp/opportunities)

### Sports

All colleges have a wide variety of sporting teams that students of any ability can join. If your child wants to represent Oxford, they will also have the chance to compete against other universities in some very successful Varsity teams. As well as college sports facilities, there is a large University sports complex with an all-weather running track, an Olympic astroturf pitch and a 25-metre swimming pool. Oxford is currently ranked amongst the top universities for sport.

[www.sport.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk)





## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Oxford is committed to ensuring that any UK student offered a place here is not held back by their financial circumstances. Oxford's reputation for excellence sometimes leads people to assume that it must be more expensive than other universities. In fact, our course fees are in line with other top universities and the excellent resources provided by the University and the colleges can actually help to lower students' living costs.

### Course fees

- What you pay each year is determined by your fee status (based on your nationality and where you usually live).
- The fees for all undergraduate students will be confirmed in the autumn of the year preceding entry at [ox.ac.uk/ugfees](https://www.ox.ac.uk/ugfees).
- While fees will usually increase annually the University caps the amount of that increase, for students continuing on the same course. For those eligible to pay fees at the Home rate, these are subject to a governmental fee cap. [ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees](https://www.ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees)
- Fee and support arrangements for EU students starting a course from 2020–21 are currently unknown. [ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu)

### Funding from the UK government

All UK students can receive a government tuition fee loan for their course fees as well as funding towards their living costs. Currently you are only expected to begin to pay this back once you have completed your course and are earning over a set amount.

There are also non-repayable supplementary grants for UK students with dependants or a disability.

UK government support arrangements for EU students beyond 2019 entry are currently unknown. For latest eligibility details, see [gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance).

Any UK government loans taken out are combined into a single amount that your son or daughter will only need to repay when they leave their course and are earning above a certain amount. For example, a graduate from England earning £30,000 in the 2018/19 tax year could make loan repayments of only £37.50 a month.

### Living costs

Students will need to budget for living costs such as food, accommodation, personal items, social activities and study costs.

- These costs depend on your lifestyle but allow around £1,060 to £1,645 a month to cover essentials like your room and food, see [ox.ac.uk/uglivingcosts](https://www.ox.ac.uk/uglivingcosts).
- Any additional costs associated with your child's course, such as field trips or special equipment can be found at: [ox.ac.uk/courses](https://www.ox.ac.uk/courses).

## Funding from Oxford

### Oxford Bursaries

Oxford is committed to offering generous non-repayable bursaries to qualifying students from lower-income households (up to £42,875). Information on Oxford Bursaries and the latest eligibility details are available at [ox.ac.uk/funding](https://ox.ac.uk/funding).

### Moritz-Heyman Scholarships

Is your family income £27,500 or less? From 2020 entry we plan to offer generous non-repayable bursaries of up to £5,000 pa to eligible UK undergraduates as part of the Moritz-Heyman Scholarship programme. These awards include funded internships and volunteering opportunities.

[ox.ac.uk/funding](https://ox.ac.uk/funding)

Students who meet the criteria for Oxford Bursaries and Moritz-Heyman Scholarships are notified from mid-September before their arrival at Oxford. We use information from your child's funding agency to assess them for this Oxford support – so you will be required to support their student finance application with information on your household income.

Colleges may also offer additional student support funds, eg travel awards, prizes and book grants.

There is limited funding available for students from outside the UK. For information on scholarships, please see the Oxford bursaries and scholarships page at [ox.ac.uk/ugschols](https://ox.ac.uk/ugschols).



If you are supporting a UK estranged student or care leaver, please note that from 2020-entry, these undergraduates will be eligible to access non-repayable bursaries up to a maximum of £7,200.



Receiving the bursary has helped me to afford accommodation and study costs for my course without struggling financially, which makes all the difference to my peace of mind. I cannot only just focus on my academic responsibilities but take a more active role in student societies and college life.

ABIGAIL

## TOP TIPS

- To access government support, your son or daughter should apply to your regional funding agency, eg Student Finance England, from the January preceding the autumn they expect to start at Oxford.

[ox.ac.uk/swd](https://ox.ac.uk/swd)

- If your child has a disability, either seen or unseen, they may be eligible for financial support.



I come from a single parent family, and my mum has a chronic illness, as a result of which I've been her carer on and off for around five years. Money stress was the last thing I needed as I was preparing to come to Oxford... so getting my Moritz-Heyman offer took a huge weight off my shoulders. Without a doubt, the Moritz-Heyman Scholarship was one of the most valuable opportunities I've ever been given.

ELLE



## HOW DOES OXFORD HELP WITH CAREERS?

Oxford graduates are highly sought after by employers – whatever their degree subject. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course will ensure your child has extensive career options. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year to attend fairs, host presentations and run skills workshops, demonstrating the demand for Oxford students. Our Careers Service offers extensive support to students and alumni, for life and free of charge, to maximise your child's opportunities in a competitive job market.

### Skills for the workplace

Our tutorial system will teach your child to research, summarise, present and defend an argument. Time spent with student clubs or societies can also be really helpful: an elected position in a society is an easy way of showing leadership and teamwork. Juggling academic study with extra-curricular activities is powerful proof of time management and organisation. Throughout their time here, Oxford students have numerous opportunities to prove or improve other employability skills – such as communication, financial numeracy, and business awareness.



For the past five years we've sponsored interns from Oxford... Without exception, they've all been absolutely fantastic: hard working, agreeable, and fun to have around. You'll be surprised the insight you'll gain seeing your business through the fresh eyes of a young Oxford student.

**MORGAN MURPHY MEDIA**

### Careers Service

Our Careers Service is an invaluable resource that helps all Oxford students with almost anything to do with their career, during and after Oxford. They can help your child find work experience, make job applications and offer inspiration for the future.

They organise careers fairs, as well as running skill-building programmes, workshops and clinics on CVs, cover letters and interview skills. The Careers Service also provides our students with exclusive access to hundreds of summer internships, many of which are based abroad. Their experienced careers advisers help with all aspects of making job applications. Each year the Careers Service advertises thousands of opportunities on CareerConnect – a job board that can only be accessed by Oxford students and alumni.

**[careers.ox.ac.uk](https://careers.ox.ac.uk)**



Oxford students are self-starters, who are able to intelligently apply themselves to a range of tasks – they are often able to manage their time effectively, and confidently present themselves in professional situations.

**ACADEMIC RESEARCH THINK TANK**



As one of my first experiences in the working world, I learnt an incredible amount... The opportunity has certainly informed my next career decisions both in terms of the field of law I would like to pursue as well as the type of job I will be searching for.

**GITANJALI, INTERN, WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**



I had never been to the Middle East before and it was a fantastic experience. I spent my weekends in the desert, the Dead Sea, Petra and Jerusalem. I feel very privileged to have had such an amazing time thanks to the Oxford University International Internship Programme.

**JAMES, INTERN, UMNIAH MOBILE**



I had a very good insight of Ocado's business and the current market in the UK, and got a very engaging project to work on. In the end what makes it better was that I was offered a full-time job with them (and I took it).

**SON, INTERN, OCADO**



## STARTING AT OXFORD

If your child receives an offer from Oxford, and meets the conditions of that offer, their place will be confirmed. Their college will be in touch with lots of useful information about what to bring, reading lists, IT services, library membership and many other things. This should answer many of your child's questions, though at this stage you may have more questions than they do. You can always ask their college if you need more information.

### The first week

Your child will be sent a timetable of events for Freshers' week which will include orientation activities for new Oxford students including the annual Freshers' Fair, introductions, registration, tours, and social events.

### Term structure

Each academic year at Oxford is made up of three eight-week terms: Michaelmas term in the autumn, Hilary term in the spring, and Trinity term in summer. You can find the term dates online.



### TOP TIPS

- Direct your son or daughter to our online pages for new students at [ox.ac.uk/students/new](https://ox.ac.uk/students/new)
- Find out what happens when they receive their results at [ox.ac.uk/results](https://ox.ac.uk/results)
- Find out more before they arrive at [ox.ac.uk/students/new/beforeyouarrive](https://ox.ac.uk/students/new/beforeyouarrive)



It was a glorious sunny day and on arrival at college he was greeted by a welcome party of students. We barely had time to help him in with all his belongings before he was whisked away to enjoy the first of many events organised for Freshers. He had worked so hard and it felt wonderful to leave him in the place he most wanted to be.

ALEX'S MUM

## FINDING OUT MORE

### Open days

Two in June or July and one in September, with smaller events throughout the year.

[ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://ox.ac.uk/opendays)

### Outreach events

Departments and colleges also run thousands of events each year for potential applicants.

[ox.ac.uk/outreachevents](http://ox.ac.uk/outreachevents)

### College visits

Most colleges welcome visits from potential applicants all year round.

[ox.ac.uk/ugvisit](http://ox.ac.uk/ugvisit)

### Admissions information

You don't have to visit Oxford to contact one of our experienced and knowledgeable staff.

[ox.ac.uk/ask](http://ox.ac.uk/ask)



### Undergraduate Prospectus

More detailed information about Oxford's courses, colleges and how to apply.

### Your guide to Oxford interviews

Explains Oxford interviews and gives advice on how to prepare.

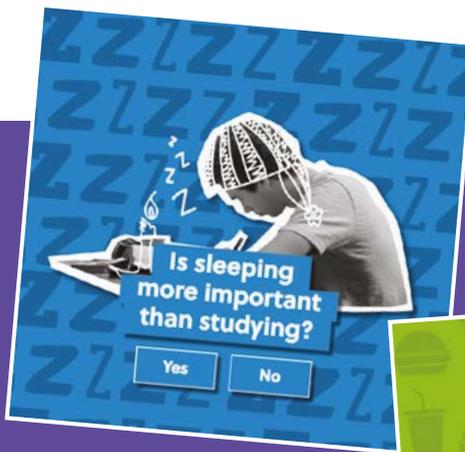
Download our prospectus or interviews guide, as well as resources such as accessible formats.

[ox.ac.uk/moreinfo](http://ox.ac.uk/moreinfo)

### Alternative Prospectus

Produced by the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU), this is written entirely by students, for students, to give an inside view of living and studying at Oxford.

[apply.oxfordsu.org](http://apply.oxfordsu.org)

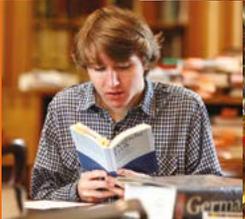


Encourage your child to engage with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the school classroom

Home of Big Questions

**OX?PLORE**

[www.oxplore.org](http://www.oxplore.org)



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