



Oxford International Study Centre

individually designed study programmes in the heart of Oxford





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Welcome to OISC

OISC is situated in the very heart of the university city, between the Town Hall and Christ Church, Oxford's most famous college.

Oxford itself is a world-renowned university city, with its origins dating back over eight hundred years. Home to Oxford Brookes University, as well as the world-famous colleges of Oxford University, the city is an unparalleled centre of learning. The beautiful architecture provides a spectacular and inspiring backdrop for academic, business, and cultural programmes for visitors and students from all over the world - and many of them choose OISC.

The Study Centre occupies a beautiful and prestigious building which is over four hundred years old, and retains its beamed ceilings and many other original features.

We aim, above all, to support all students in achieving their personal educational goals, through learning in a safe, welcoming and encouraging environment.

Each student has a different personality and learning style and we pride ourselves on our flexibility: we want to provide the right course for you, whatever that course looks like.

We look forward to welcoming you to OISC.

Benjamin Llewelyn

Principal, Oxford

International Study Centre



OISC is a well-established college in the centre of Oxford. We have a Grade One inspection report (*‘exceeds expectations’*) from the Independent Schools’ Inspectorate, as well as Tier 4 Sponsor Status from UK Visas and Immigration (licence no. CEUN 82AB6).

As well as these important UK recognitions, OISC is extremely well connected in education worldwide. As Accredited Members of the Council of British International Schools (COBIS), and members of the European Council for International Schools, Swiss Group of International Schools, European Association for International Education, and the American organisation NAFSA: Association of International Educators, we work with colleagues around the world to ensure our courses are well-suited to students from all over the world.

“The college exceeds expectations for the quality of education. At the time of inspection, all Standards for Educational Oversight were met and quality is excellent.”

- Independent Schools’ Inspectorate Report 2019

Principal

Benjamin Llewelyn graduated from Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in English Language and Literature, before undertaking a Masters in Classical Reception at the University of Bristol, working primarily on the relationships between Ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt, and modern social theories. He has been Principal of OISC since 2014.

International Director

Carolyn Llewelyn has worked in international education for over twenty years. She first established her own college in Oxford and was runner-up in the UK Women in Business awards. She graduated from St Anne’s College, Oxford, in Modern and Medieval Languages.





Please keep off the grass

General English

Programmes at all levels are available. If you are unsure, take our online English Test.

Beginner - Elementary - Pre-Intermediate - Intermediate -Upper-Intermediate - Advanced



Our General English programmes cover all four aspects of language learning: Reading Speaking Listening Writing



Course length is entirely flexible: we have students taking English Language for one week, and others for 1 or 2 years. These take place year round.



All tutors of English are at least CELTA qualified and have many years' experience teaching students of various nationalities.



All students receive a Certificate of Attainment upon completion of their course. Long-term students are encouraged to take a formal IELTS exam at the end of their programme to chart their progress.



Individual tuition is based on 10, 20 or 30 lessons per week (40 lessons per week in exceptional cases) and students will usually have two or three different tutors.

Group Tuition is organised in programmes of two types;

	Standard English Language Programme	Intensive English Language Programme
Number of lessons/hours per week	20 Lessons (15 hours)	30 Lessons (22.5 hours)
Lesson times	09.15 - 10.45 (Session 1) 11 - 12.30 (Session 2)	09.15 - 10.45 (Session 1) 11 - 12.30 (Session 2) 13.30 - 15.00 (Session 3)
Levels available	Beginner - Advanced (A1 - C2+)	Beginner - Advanced (A1 - C2+)

Academic English & Exam preparation

We also offer Academic English programmes for students preparing for examinations, usually IELTS. These courses are intensively focused on the objectives of the exam, rather than more general language learning.

We have a 100% pass rate for students taking IELTS preparation courses with us. We accept students at all IELTS levels, and we usually advise that, with hard work, students can expect to improve their score by between 0.5 and 1.0 IELTS points during each six-month period of study.

Exam Preparation Courses for;

- IELTS
- GMAT, LNAT, ELAT & other specialist university entrance tests
- German Abitur
- American Examinations (SAT, AP)



Specialised Courses

In addition to General English and Exam preparation, we offer a range of courses with a specialised focus;

- Business English
- English with Literature or History
- English for Law, Medicine or Finance
- English for Healthcare Professionals (Occupational English Test preparation)

“One of the greatest assets possessed by OISC is their creativity in delivering lessons. They engage students in unique ways that make teaching and learning fun. Our schools has been able to record great improvement in students’ performance on the iGCSE as a result.”

- Ms. Comfort, Nigeria

9 Academic Programmes

We teach over twenty different academic subjects, including Humanities, Languages, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Business-related courses. Typically students take two or three subjects, and the balance of lessons can be altered to suit the needs of each student. Many students combine an academic programme with English Language support. A course of 20 or 30 lessons per week, divided between several subjects, is typical.

We teach a wide range of subjects, from elementary level to post-graduate level. Most of the following subjects are offered at (I)GCSE and A-Level, and some of them for other international qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate. We also offer specially designed programmes for individuals, groups, and companies in subjects outside these areas.

If you cannot see the subject you wish to study in this list, please do contact us. There is an excellent chance that we will be able to arrange a course for you in your chosen field of study.

“From an academic point of view, my English lessons helped to improve my IELTS score, which will be my passport to university and my A-Level study helped me secure a place at the university of my choice. My future definitely looks much brighter now.”

- Cynthia, Angola



Academic Programmes



Humanities

Ancient History

Art History

Classical Civilisation

Classical Languages (Latin & Greek)

Creative Writing

English Language

English Literature

History

Philosophy



Sciences

Biology

Chemistry

Computing

Environmental Science

Geography

Human Biology

Mathematics/Further Mathematics

Physics

Science



Social Sciences

Government and Politics

International Relations

Law

Psychology

Sociology

Religious Studies



Business-related

Accounting

Business Studies

Economics



Languages

Arabic

Modern Languages



The Arts

Art & Design

Film Studies

Media Studies

Music

Drama

We welcome both international and domestic students for full-time academic study. These are usually students preparing for British public examinations, but we are also very happy to help younger students wishing to prepare for Common Entrance or for entry into a British boarding school. For more details on these programmes, please see our section on Junior Programmes. Students re-sitting public exams are also very welcome.

Our academic tutors at OISC are graduates of leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and have many years experience teaching both domestic and international students.

	3 Terms (12 weeks)	June/July Exams + Mock examinations	20 Lessons per week, small class sizes (5 or 6)	Supplementary individual lessons	Fast track option (1 year)
GCSE/iGCSE	✓	✓	✓	✓	
A-Level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Baccalaureate (IB)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Foundation in Business	32 weeks taken as a single year	End of course assessment	Intensive schedule	✓	✓



What	Short-term courses for students preparing for public or school examinations.
When	During School holidays - Winter, Easter, Summer & all half-term breaks.
Course Length	Entirely flexible; one-week revision courses to year-round.
Subjects	Wide range (see full list of previous page).
Assessment	Homework, progress tests and mock examinations.
Course Additions	For students whose first language is not English, a supplementary English Language programme can be added.
Format	All courses can be taken individually or in small groups.
Extra Support	Regular after-school support to local students when purchasing a package of 20,30 + 40 lessons.
Pre-Arrival support	<p>Students are encouraged to send as much information as possible about their preferred areas of focus so that their course can be tailored to their needs. Recent school reports or mock exam grades are especially useful.</p> <p>In addition, all students will complete a pre-course questionnaire, outline exam boards, dates of qualification and areas of weakness for each subject.</p>



Study Skills Workshops

Lessons in Study Skills are an essential support for many students, in revision planning, time-management, essay-writing, and other related matters. Although all students taking academic subjects with us will receive some study skills advice as part of their normal lessons, we also organise regular workshops for all long-term students, especially in the lead-up to public examinations.



Study Skills workshops will cover the following areas:

- When and where to study - what suits you as an individual?
- Making notes in and outside lesson time
- How best to tackle homework assignments
- Planning for exams and management of revision
- Time-management
- Personal development planning
- Essay-writing skills
- Use of IT, libraries and resources
- Communication with teachers and working with fellow pupils
- Motivation and managing stress



Current Affairs Discussion Groups

Oxford is well known as the home of discussion and debate. Many of our leading politicians began their careers at the Oxford Union Debating Society. In summer, discussion groups are taught in the Union buildings, and students have the chance to visit the world famous debating chamber, which has hosted speakers from US Presidents and UK Prime Ministers to international celebrities.

Students joining us for long-term programmes at OISC are able to join the Oxford Union as associate members if they are over 16.

For students with at least an intermediate level of English, we arrange weekly discussion and debating groups. These focus on articles in the news and current affairs in general. They are led by one of our senior tutors and are an excellent way of developing communication skills. Typically, the tutor will take a newspaper or online article as a starting point and allow the discussion to develop from there. The groups are also enormous fun, since the discussions are often very heated!

As well as informal discussion, tutors will usually cover the rules of formal debating and encourage students to engage in a debate. This is extremely good for improving spoken English and is an interesting experience - very quintessentially English!

Many of the students who opt to join these groups will subsequently apply to leading British universities, and they are an excellent preparation for the general interview.

16 University Preparation Courses

We offer a variety of different options for students preparing for entry to a British university.

These courses involve a **high level of pastoral care**. Meeting with our advisers and senior tutors, students will select which institutions to apply to based on analysis of their requirements and academic standing, and will commence the UCAS application process, with close support throughout.

Advisers offer **assistance with Personal Statement writing**, and can provide the UCAS academic reference if required. Students will have **intensive, high-level tuition** in the subject(s) which they hope to read at university - normally this will be 20 or 25 lessons per week, with additional tuition available for extra subjects or extra support in any subject.

These programmes are available in short-term courses of between 2 and 4 weeks, or as a longer-term, full-time programme for students preparing to apply during a gap year.

Students applying to Oxford & Cambridge

During the summer vacation and in the Winter term, we assist a number of students in applying to Oxford or Cambridge University. These institutions are unique in holding interviews and specialised entrance tests in November and December.

Tuition is at an advanced level, and is individual or in very small groups of two or three. All tutors involved have a great deal of experience in assisting students in applying to these institutions.

The interviews are designed to assess a student's understanding and critical skills, and also their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, their chosen subject. It is important that students are able to 'think outside the box'. With this in mind, students on this programme take part in **advanced-level Current Affairs discussion groups**, in order to facilitate their critical thinking and debating skills.

In many subjects there are also written tests. These are typically a test of the student's ability to move beyond the demands of A-Level or IB and to consider more demanding questions. In subjects which have not usually been studied at school, the tests are designed to gauge potential aptitude - for example in Law or PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics). Students applying for undergraduate study in Classical or Modern Languages should also expect language aptitude tests.

The courses we organise consist of:

- Practice for the written tests with specialist tutors
- Interview practice - both subject-specific and general
- Advice on studying at Oxford or Cambridge

Junior Programmes

Short-Term Programmes

Unlike many tutorial colleges in Oxford, we accept junior students for courses all year round. We have no fixed age limit - we leave suitability for courses to the discretion of parents and agents. We are often joined by students as young as five years old! However, we reserve the right to suggest students wait a year or two before coming to Oxford if we believe their age to be a hindrance to learning.



Junior students are grouped separately from our older students, according to age, and every summer we have several groups of very young students - they are always a pleasure to teach!

Many young students join programmes with their parents and we are able to arrange courses for parents alongside junior courses, with breaks at the same time to allow for supervision.

We take the welfare of all our students very seriously, and this is especially true for juniors. Younger students are carefully monitored, and are encouraged to stay on-site under careful supervision during break-times.



**We are able to arrange transport by registered taxi to and from school every day, and this service is compulsory for students under the age of 12 who are unaccompanied in Oxford.*

Boarding School Preparation

A student preparing for a British school would normally combine tuition in English Language at the appropriate level with three to five academic subjects, as well as Study Skills. The balance of subjects is designed to meet the needs of each student.

For younger students, preparation for boarding school entrance tests and interviews usually includes Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, together with English and Maths. We can also offer support for Common Entrance and Scholarship Entrance examinations. Practice interviews are included where necessary.

We offer intensive preparation courses for the **UKISET**.

We have excellent links with many British schools, and we can assist with school placement if required. We liaise closely with the student's future school in order to ensure all necessary material is covered before the start of the academic year.



“On Saturday I spoke to Gabriela on the phone, in English. It was astonishing to hear her progress after just a few weeks. You are doing a wonderful job!”

- Andreas, Brazil



Gap Year Programmes

We arrange study abroad programmes, for individuals and for school or college groups, in the form of a semester or year in Oxford and are a wonderful opportunity for students to discover the joys of Oxford, whilst continuing their education and broadening their horizons.

Some students take these programmes to enhance their existing studies, and possibly gain accreditation from their own high school or college. Others see the Oxford programme as an exciting way to widen their cultural and educational experience as part of a gap year. Some students love the city so much that they take the programme in order to enter a British university and stay in Oxford!

These programmes are very much tailor-made - they are unlike any other academic programme we offer. We arrange Skype interviews with all students before they travel to Oxford, so that we can work with you to personalise your course.

Some students choose to fill their schedule with academic study, aiming to work towards a qualification of some kind, whilst others choose to explore lots of different subjects which they have never studied - for example, learning a new language, or looking at an area of History which is new to them. Some students prefer to focus on the cultural, taking more vocational options in Art, Design, Architecture or even things like needlework or jewellery-making! The most important aspect of these courses is their flexibility. We have welcomed students who have arrived planning to study Architecture at university, and have left to pursue undergraduate study in International Relations - we allow our study abroad students to shape their own programme in order for them to get a truly personalised, diverse experience.

We have been able to organise work experience placements for study abroad students in establishments as diverse as vintage clothing shops and patisseries. Students taking a gap-year programme should expect a culturally enriching and educational experience which they will remember forever. All students taking a gap-year or study abroad semester receive full certification from OISC with letters of recommendation and references, to ensure they receive credit where possible.

“Thank you so much for having us on the programme this year, and teaching us the beauty of academia. We really appreciate everything you did for us, and it truly will be something we never forget.”

- Amy and Stephanie, USA

Teacher Training Courses

Our **Teacher Training Prospectus** contains full details of all programmes for teachers, and is available on request. Please contact us for further information.

We offer year-round teacher training programmes for teachers of all nationalities. These courses are aimed at trainee or practising teachers of English, and other academic subjects, who wish to develop their language and teaching skills further. Many people who take these courses are well-established teachers of academic subjects in their own countries, but join us at OISC in order to get a genuine flavour of what teaching is like in the UK, and how English teaching methods may differ from those to which they are accustomed. We have welcomed many teachers who prepare students for (i)GCSE examinations in their own countries and wish to add an authentic edge to their teaching methods. We have also helped many English Language teachers from overseas who wish to improve their awareness of advanced English idiom and colloquial spoken English. Typically, participants will join advanced-level English group classes, then take a number of individual or small-group lessons in teaching methodologies.



All courses are available to individuals and groups of students - please do contact us to discuss your options, especially if you would like to join us as a school group. Teachers from the European Union are able to apply for funding through the Erasmus programme.

You can find all our programmes on the Schools' Education Gateway - **OID Number:**
E10022455

Programmes for Companies and Organisations

We have many years of experience of welcoming individuals and groups from international companies and organisations for short, tailor-made programmes at OISC, organised through our training division, Oxford International Corporate Training (see **Corporate Training Brochure for more details**). Oxford is not only a major university city of world renown, but it is also a thriving business centre, in one of the fastest-developing parts of Britain.

Programmes are personalised and organised in discussion with programme leaders, and prices are by agreement, but in general they include the following:

- Seminars with specialist leaders from business or academic life, held in buildings of Oxford University
- Site visits to relevant companies and organisations
- Social and cultural programme

Programmes we have organised in the past have been for managers and staff from these sectors:

- Local Government
- Finance and Banking
- Tourism
- Health Care
- Business Management
- International Law
- International Relations and NGOs
- Construction and Project Management
- Information Technology
- Marketing and Media



Summer at OISC

Summer is the most vibrant period of the year at OISC. All our programmes run throughout the year, but during the main summer period (late June to early September) we welcome large numbers of students taking specialised summer courses. The focus of these courses is on a combined academic and cultural experience, and so most students take a less intensive programme of lessons, to include our cultural activities programme. This is a great opportunity for students to meet each other, and to make friends from all over the world.

For groups of students we are able to arrange closed-group activities or integrate students with others. Groups can also request that specific activities be included, subject to additional fees.



In the summer, we arrange a regular social activities and excursions programme. Students will have a two-hour activity every afternoon, once their lessons have finished. The programme has a wide variety of different activities, but some of the most popular options include:



Punting on the river

Oxford City tour



Harry Potter Tours



Oxford University
College visits



Picnics in the park



Drama workshops

The programme also includes a full-day trip at the weekend. Destinations vary by week, but some of the most popular are London, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath & Stonehenge, Cambridge, Windsor & Eton College, Portsmouth & the Isle of Wight, and Brighton.

Oxford Summer Experience

Oxford Summer Experience is an academically exciting and challenging programme for students who are aged at least 16. Participants must be fluent in English. The emphasis is on an immersive cultural and social experience, and students on this course should expect to try a diverse range of different activities during their time in Oxford. The four course options listed below all include accommodation in a College of Oxford University - a wonderful place to stay whilst in Oxford. The courses are bespoke and are taught by specialists - it's a truly excellent programme. Courses are subject to a minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 15. If these terms are not met, other options can be offered. Oxford Summer Experience runs for two fixed 2-week periods in the summer. Students can join for both sessions if they wish. For this year's dates, please contact us.

***See overleaf for sample schedule.**

Course 1: The Visual Arts

This course focuses on the study and production of works of art of all types; painting, photography, drawing, sculpture and textiles.

- 15 hours of academic tuition
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- Half-day practical master-class
- Full activities and weekend excursions programme
- A formal lunch in the University

Course 3: Ancient and Modern History

The course takes students from Ancient Rome & Greece to modern European history, whilst engaging with their languages.

- 15 hours of academic tuition
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- Half-day excursion to Blenheim Palace (birthplace of Winston Churchill)
- Full activities and weekend excursions programme
- A formal lunch in the University

Course 2: Literature and Writing

On this course, students will read Shakespeare and the Oxford writers, and will produce writing of their own in a number of different styles.

- 15 hours of academic tuition
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- Evening trip to view an open-air Shakespeare production
- Full activities and weekend excursions programme
- A formal lunch in the University

Course 4: STEM

Our STEM course is designed to explore the 4 pillars of STEM thinking. The tutors are Oxford & Cambridge undergraduate and postgraduate STEM specialists.

- 15 hours of academic tuition
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- Tour of the BMW Plant in Oxford
- Full activities and weekend excursions programme
- A formal lunch in the University

Sample Schedule - Course 1, The Visual Arts

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
9.15am - 9.45am:	9.30am - 1.30pm:	9.15am - 12.30am:	9.15am - 12.30am:	9.15am - 12.30am:	Full-Day Excursion to Cambridge	2pm: Arrival/ Departure Day		
Welcome & Orientation	Visit to Blenheim Palace	Film Studies	Fine Arts Workshop	Mono Printing				
Break	Sketching Workshop	Break	Break	Break				
9.45 - 12.30pm		Film Studies	Fine Arts Workshop continued	Mono Printing continued				
Film Studies								
Lunch								
1.30pm - 3pm	1.30pm - 3pm	1.30pm - 3pm	1.30pm - 3pm	1.30pm - 3pm				
Visit to Christchurch College & Cathedral	Visit to Blenheim Palace	Visit to Museum of Modern Art	Fine Arts Workshop continued	Mono Printing continued				
	Sketching workshop							
Break								
3.15pm - 4.45pm	3.15pm - 4.45pm	3.15pm - 4.45pm	3.15pm - 4.45pm	3.15pm - 4.45pm		6pm: Dinner in Hall		
Walking Tour of Oxford	Activity Ashmolean Museum	Current Affairs	Activity Bodleian Library (Harry Potter Tour)	Activity Punting on the River				
6pm Dinner in Hall								
Free Time	Quiz night	Movie Night	Evening Activities	Free Time		7.30pm: Meet the Group Social		





Student Welfare

The welfare and wellbeing of our students, both emotional and physical, is our primary concern. We aim to support all students in learning in a positive, happy environment in which they feel safe at all times. OISC staff have extensive training in safeguarding and child protection and are understanding and empathetic listeners. The Principal is a qualified trainer for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) and is extremely experienced in issues relating to child protection and student welfare. All students are encouraged to speak with a member of staff, at any time, if they have any concerns, or if they would simply like some advice. We understand that travelling abroad can be a daunting experience and we do everything we can to make sure students are comfortable and able to study without nerves or stress. The atmosphere at OISC is a welcoming, warm, and friendly one, where all students feel at home.

We operate a robust recruitment procedure, in line with Oxford City Council Safer Recruitment training. All tutors are background checked, referenced, and regularly safeguarding trained.

Parents and agents are encouraged to contact us at any time to discuss our welfare arrangements, or simply for a chat about how their student is getting on. We are always very happy to help!

“The Literature course was outstanding. Everybody in the OISC office makes an extraordinary effort to be flexible and nice to make you feel at home. I have learnt a lot. Thank you!

- Ulla, Denmark

Pastoral Care and University Support

All full-time students at OISC are allocated a personal tutor, with whom they usually meet fortnightly. Additional meetings can of course be arranged in times of need. Personal tutors are responsible for students' welfare throughout their time at OISC, though of course all administrative staff can be consulted by students regarding personal or academic matters at any time. Personal tutors and academic staff will also assist students with university preparation and the application process where relevant.

Accommodation

We offer a range of accommodation options to meet each student's preferences and budget. Whilst students who are over 18 are very welcome to organise their own accommodation, we encourage all students to take up one of the options we offer, to avoid stress and to ensure a comfortable stay. It also means that we can phone to wake them up if they are late for lessons!

Our Student Services Manager checks all accommodation regularly, and is in constant contact with residence staff and host families. We liaise closely with parents and agents to make sure that we offer the most suitable style of accommodation for each student.

All accommodation options include breakfast and an evening meal, with students usually buying their own lunch in the town centre during their break. Accommodation is in single rooms, though students coming to Oxford with friends or family can request to share a twin room, subject to availability. WiFi is available, free of charge, at all accommodation.

We are very happy to advise on local hotels, guest houses, or short-let apartments for friends and family who visit students whilst in Oxford.

Staying in one of Oxford's college residences gives you the chance to immerse yourself in student life, living on campus and socialising with other students.



Living with a Host Family is an excellent way to learn more about British culture and provides ample opportunities to practice the English language.



Host Family Accommodation

The most popular option for students is to stay in a host family, and this is available for students aged 12+, or younger if they stay with a family member or guardian in the homestay. The majority of our families have worked with us for many years, and we place students carefully with families that will be a good match for their personalities - some students like to sit and chat to their family every evening, whilst others prefer more privacy.



All families are regularly visited by our Student Services Manager, who they have a very good relationship with, and all host families are checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service for their suitability to accommodate students. They are also safeguarding trained.



Age-appropriate curfews are imposed at all host families.



Bedrooms are typically single rooms, with a desk to allow students to study. A limited number of en-suite bedrooms are available at extra cost.



“Really lovely host family! Everything was perfect, I loved them very much! Everything was clean room, sheets. Dinner was different every day and always a friendly atmosphere at home”.

— Anastasiya, Summer Course, Ukraine

Student Residence Accommodation

Our Student Residence accommodation option is extremely popular for long-term students and those who are not old enough to live alone, but would like more independence than the host family option. It is available to students aged 14+. Breakfast and dinner are served at the on-site restaurant, and there is a welcoming common room area where students can socialise.

The Residence is in the very centre of Oxford, next to the train station, and is around a 10-minute walk from OISC, so students can return to their rooms during the lunch break, or free periods.



The Residence has a 24-hour warden and has key-card security access to ensure student safety.



All rooms are single study bedrooms, and all have en-suite bathrooms. Male and female students live on separate floors.

“The Residence was perfect. The food was delicious, it was close to school, and I was able to live with my friends. Everything was clean and the bed was comfortable. I will definitely stay there again!”

— Maho, Japan



University Accommodation

During the summer, students over 17 have the option of staying in a college of Oxford University. This option is more expensive than staying in a host family, and prices vary according to dates and college options.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get a feel for life as an Oxford undergraduate, and has the added bonus of being right in the City Centre!

University accommodation does have limited availability, so we recommend booking well in advance if you plan to choose this option.

OISC also have access to the Oxford university teaching rooms including the Oxford Union and several colleges. For group bookings, we are able to arrange university teaching rooms on request, subject to availability. Early booking is essential.



Frequently Asked Questions

General

Do you have Tier 4 Sponsor status?

Yes, Oxford International Study Centre is recognised as a Tier 4 Sponsor under the Points Based System. Students requiring Student Visitor Visas require visa invitation letters, whilst long-term students needing a Tier 4 visa are issued with a CAS.

Is Oxford International Study Centre connected with Oxford University?

Oxford International Study Centre is not part of Oxford University. However, we are very well connected indeed with the University. The principal and most of the senior tutors are graduates of Oxford, and our summer courses (for those over 16) are held in the University. Some of our tutors also teach for the University, and we invite guest lecturers from the University to take part in many of our programmes. We are an affiliated institution of the Oxford University Union (www.oxford-union.org) and therefore our students (age 16+) can become members, where they can enjoy the debates with world famous speakers, and use the libraries and restaurant.

What is a typical class size?

Most classes typically consist of between 5 and 10 students. However, in some A Level and IGCSE classes there are as few as 3 students. This makes us unique, enabling us to focus on your personal academic needs.

Which countries do the students come from?

Oxford International Study Centre attracts a wide range of nationalities. We typically have around 30 nationalities with us each year.

Visas

Do I require a visa to study in the UK?

If you are a national of the EEA or Switzerland, you do not require a visa*. However, if you are from outside the EU, EEA or Switzerland, then you may require a visa - please check with your embassy. For courses under 6 weeks, a tourism visa is sufficient. For longer programmes, a Student Visitor Visa is needed. ***Rules dependant on Brexit settlement.**

How do I apply for a Student Visa to come to the UK?

Please contact us for detailed information regarding applications. Once an application is received, we will send advice on how to be issued a visa.

Will I be refunded my deposit if my visa is refused?

Yes, if you are refused a visa, and have unsuccessfully appealed the decision, we will refund your full deposit minus the registration fee, in most circumstances. **See the terms and conditions for our full refund policy.**

Admissions

How can I apply for a course?

The best way to apply for a course is to complete the application form which is on our website. Alternatively, please email us for an electronic or paper copy.

What deposit is required in order to be accepted onto a course?

The exact deposit will depend on the course for which you are applying. Typically, a deposit of 25% must be paid before confirmation can be issued. Full fees are then due no less than 3 weeks before arrival.

Do I need to take a UKVI approved English language test in order to be accepted for just an English language course?

A UKVI approved English language test is not necessary if you are planning on studying an English language course for up to six months. For entry onto this length of course, Oxford International Study Centre's own English language test will be sufficient. However, if you are planning on studying an English language course for more than six months, or you will require a CAS, then you will need to take an IELTS test.

How long will it take for me to be issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)?

We will endeavour to issue your CAS within 24 hours of receiving both your signed offer and your deposit.

Welfare

How do I open a bank account?

You will only be able to open a bank account if you are enrolled on one of our courses for at least six months. If this applies to you, then you will need a letter from the college which you may obtain from us on your first day.

How do I register with the police?

You will only need to register with the police if there is a stamp in your passport requesting you to do so and this will need to be done within 7 days of arriving in the UK. In order to register, you will need to complete a simple registration form, which we will help you complete on your first day at the college. You will then need to personally visit the police station in Oxford with the following: your completed registration form; your passport; two passport-sized photographs; and an administration payment (cash only).

How do I register with a doctor?

If you are enrolled on a course for at least six months, then you are entitled to care on the National Health Service (NHS), subject to the payment of the Health Surcharge, during the visa application process.

Accommodation

Will I have to share a room?

No. All students are given a single room as standard. If you are visiting us with friends, you can request to share a room, and we will offer shared rooms if they are available. Limited double rooms are available for couples, on request.

Do your homestays cater for Muslim diets?

Yes, some of our homestays are flexible and can cater for Muslim diets. Some of our homestays will also gladly serve halal meat upon request. During Ramadan, these homestays are extremely understanding of fasting requirements. Do let us know of any dietary or religious requirements before arrival so we can make suitable arrangements - please be as specific as possible so we can make sure you are comfortable!

Lifestyle

How much money should I budget for to allow for living expenses?

The exact amount will depend on your individual circumstances and lifestyle, however, as a rough guide; we suggest £100 a week for lunch, snacks, socialising, and travel, not including accommodation costs.

Does the college offer a sports and social programme?

Yes, we run a variety of sports and social activities throughout the year. These are usually weekly during full term, and every day during the summer.

“One of my favourite things about my time at OISC has to be all the people from different places in the world that I’ve met, deepening my knowledge and interest in the world. Although I feel I got great value for money with regard to lessons and accommodation, what I gained from meeting all these different people from all over the world is priceless.”

-Lisa, South Africa



If you would like further information on any of our programmes, or if you would like a quotation for a group or individual student, please contact us at:

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