



Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute



Visiting Student Programme

2023-2024



|| About University

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 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 colleges: Regent's Park, Mansfield, Pembroke, Worcester, Blackfriars, Hertford, St. Anne's, St. Edmund Hall 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.



Application Requirements

- **GPA:** 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.
- **6th December, 2022:** 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 2023/2024 have not yet been announced. As a guide, below are example fees for the current Academic Year 2021/2022 at Regent's Park College.

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 fees for the whole academic year	£32,575 (£10,858 per term)
Accommodation fee for the whole academic year	£4,950 (MT £1,695, HT £1,614, TT £1,641)*
Meals Prepayment	£90

* Provisional figure for accommodation - final figure for 2022/23 may vary slightly

The Academic Year

Term	From	To
Michaelmas 2023	Sunday, 8 October	Saturday, 2 December
Hilary 2024	Sunday, 14 January	Saturday, 9 March
Trinity 2024	Sunday, 21 April	Saturday, 15 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.

Please consult with and send application materials through your home university. For enquiries, you may also contact OPGDI's Liaison Officer:
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.



“ *The tutorial system is a really good way to deepen your understanding of the subjects. Whenever you need help, you can just ask the omniscient computer science wizard in your college and they will take the time to explain it to you.*

---- Robert Bastian
Major in Computer Science ”

“ *The tutorial system is one of the great things about studying at Oxford and it is extremely rewarding to sit down for an hour with a leading expert in your chosen field to discuss an essay you have written or to go over a difficult maths problem.*

---- Anna
Major in Economics and Management ”

“ *There's a whole range of people with different faiths, beliefs, worldviews. That's part of what makes it so exciting in tutorial - you don't want to just hear people saying the same as you!*

---- Chloe
Major in Religion and Oriental Studies ”

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 0th Week through to the conclusion of 8th 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.





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