



Oxford International Study Centre

individually designed study programmes in the heart of Oxford



NAFSA
Association of
International Educators



Oxford International
Study Centre
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EAI
European Association for
International Education


UK Visas
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Tier 4 Sponsor Status


European Council
for International
Schools


Swiss Group of International Schools


COUNCIL OF
BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
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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. 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.



Oxford 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.

Why OISC?

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 the inspection, all Standards for Educational Oversight were met and quality is excellent."

- Independent Schools' Inspectorate report, 2016

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.

Company Directors

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.

Robert Marsden has a long family history in the world of education: his father, grandfather and great-uncle all taught at Eton College, and Robert was born and educated there before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and later completing an MBA at INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France. He is also a director of and shareholder in Collingham Sixth Form College in London.

English Language Programmes

These programmes take place year round, both for group and individual bookings. We offer tuition in small groups and one-to-one for a more intensive experience. All courses train students to communicate clearly both in written and spoken usage. Each lesson is 45 minutes long, usually taken in double lessons of 1.5 hours.

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

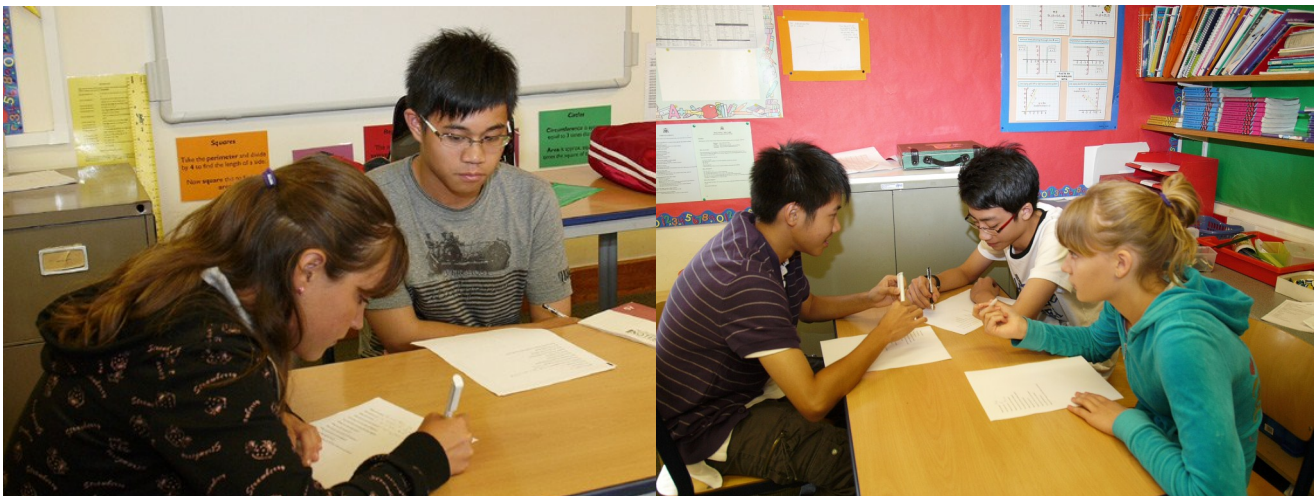
Group tuition is organised in programmes of two types: General English, consisting of 20 lessons per week, or the Intensive English programme, which consists of 30 lessons per week.

Typically students taking 20 lessons per week will have lessons just in the morning, from 9.15 - 12.30, and those taking 30 lessons per week will also have lessons in the afternoon from 1.30 - 3.00.

These timings are not fixed and are subject to variation depending on availability and time of year.

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 in order to have as varied and useful an experience as possible.

Combined courses of 20 group lessons + 5, 10 or 15 individual lessons are also available.



Our General English programmes cover all four aspects of language learning: Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing, with a focus on learning functional English which can be used in everyday settings.

Courses are tailored to suit the needs of each class - younger students will experience a combination of classroom teaching and activities to make learning the language fun. Classes at a more advanced level will be focused on debating and public speaking skills, using colloquial language and stylistic flair. All tutors of English are CELTA– and degree-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.

These courses are designed for students of all ages and abilities - we often have students as young as 5! Students are tested on arrival and are placed into classes based on their ability and their age - whilst English level is our main concern, we attempt to be age-sensitive with class allocation as far as is possible.

Courses are offered from total beginner to advanced and very advanced level.

Our maximum group size is 15 students, with the average group having 6 - 8 students.

Specialised English Programmes

As well as General English courses, we are able to offer specialist tuition in English:

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



"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

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.

Subjects Taught

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.

- Ancient History
- Arabic
- Accounting
- Art and Design
- Art History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Classical Languages (Latin and Greek)
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Design and Technology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- European Studies
- Film Studies
- Further Mathematics
- General Studies
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Human Biology
- International Relations
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Sociology
- Theatre Studies

Full-Time Courses

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.

We offer full-time exam preparation courses for GCSE and IGCSE, A-Level and the International Baccalaureate (IB). The academic year is divided into three terms of 12 weeks, with exams taken in June or July. Students on these programmes are given regular testing as well as a more formal mock exam session, usually at the end of the Winter Term. Unlike many similar institutions, we are able to offer fast-track A-Level study in some cases, with exams taken after one year's tuition rather than the standard two.

Full-time courses are based on 20 lessons per week, taught in small groups - usually no bigger than 5 or 6 students. Lessons are usually divided equally between subjects, though we can be very flexible - students can choose to allocate more lessons to their weaker subjects.

In addition, students can choose, at an extra cost, to add supplementary individual lessons to their course if needed.

*"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 get a place at the university of my choice. **My future definitely looks much brighter now.**"*

- Cynthia, Angola

The tutors at OISC are graduates of leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and have many years' experience of teaching both domestic and international students, and international clients. The vast majority of our students who are applying to university gain a place at their first or second choice institution, and the pass rate for IELTS is 100%.



Short-Term Courses

During school holidays (Winter, Easter and Summer, and all half-term breaks) we offer popular short-term courses for students preparing for public or school examinations. For students whose first language is not English, these can be taken alongside an English Language programme.

We offer a wide range of different subjects (for a full list, see page 8), and students generally take between two and four.

Course lengths are entirely flexible, with some students joining us for intensive one-week revision courses - year-round, but most popular during school holidays - while others come for several months. Students typically take 20 lessons per week, though more intensive options are available. These lessons can be split between subjects according to each student's needs.

Homework and testing is standard, and mock exams are also used to monitor student progress.

As with all courses, lessons can be taken individually, or in small groups.

We are also able to offer regular after-school support for local students, who purchase a package of 20, 30 or 40 lessons, which they can then spread over a number of weeks as they choose.

“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 school has been able to record great improvement in students' performance on the IGCSE as a result.”

- Ms. Comfort, Nigeria

We teach for the following public examinations, as well as for internal school exams. This list is not exhaustive, so please do contact us if you require tuition for an examination not listed here - we will usually be able to help.

- **A-Level**
- **(I)GCSE**
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)**
- **German Abitur**
- **American examinations (SAT, AP)**
- **Specialist university entrance tests (eg. GMAT, LNAT, ELAT - see page 13)**



Students are encouraged to send as much information as possible about their preferred areas of focus before arrival so that their course can be tailored to their needs. Recent school reports and mock exam grades are especially useful.

In addition, all students will complete a pre-course questionnaire, outlining exam boards, dates of qualification, and specific areas of weakness for each subject. This information is used to group students together carefully to ensure maximum productivity. Where a suitable group is not available, we will let students know as early as possible so that individual tuition can be arranged where preferable.



Revision Course Sample Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.15 – 10.45 double lesson Subject Lesson 1 (small group tuition)	9.15 – 10.45 double lesson Subject Lesson 1 (small group tuition)	9.15 – 10.45 double lesson Subject Lesson 1 (small group tuition)	9.15 – 10.45 double lesson Subject Lesson 1 (small group tuition)	9.15 – 10.45 double lesson Subject Lesson 1 (small group tuition)
Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11 – 12.30 double lesson Supervised Private Study	11 – 12.30 double lesson Mock Exam	11 – 12.30 double lesson Mock Exam	11 – 12.30 double lesson Mock Exam	11 – 12.30 double lesson Supervised Private Study
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30 – 3.00 double lesson Subject Lesson 2 (small group tuition)	1.30 – 3.00 double lesson Subject Lesson 2 (small group tuition)	1.30 – 3.00 double lesson Subject Lesson 2 (small group tuition)	1.30 – 3.00 double lesson Subject Lesson 2 (small group tuition)	1.30 – 3.00 double lesson Subject Lesson 2 (small group tuition)
Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
3.15- 4.45 double lesson Study Skills Seminar	3.15- 4.45 double lesson Supervised Private Study	3.15- 4.45 double lesson Current Affairs Discussion Group	3.15- 4.45 double lesson Study Skills Seminar	3.15- 4.45 double lesson Mock Exam

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

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.

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 such as Michael Jackson and Shakira.

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

University Preparation Courses

We offer a variety of different options for students preparing for entry to a British university. For those who have not yet started the application process, these courses involve a **high level of pastoral care**. Meeting with our university 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 will 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.

The Foundation Programme in Business is also offered as a substitute for A-Levels, with progression offered to more than 15 UK universities, including Oxford Brookes.

Students applying to Oxford or 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 students. All tutors involved have a great deal of experience in assisting students in applying to these institutions.

At both universities the interview stage is extremely important. These 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 at interview. 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
-

"The support shown by everyone at OISC was heart-warming. Every single teacher I had played a crucial role in building up my confidence and **they gave me the push I needed to apply to various universities** in the U.K. It was awesome and I highly recommend it!"

- Meera, Pakistan

Junior Courses

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! We do, however, 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.

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.



Students preparing for British Boarding Schools

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.

Gap Year Programmes

We arrange study abroad programmes for individuals and for school or college groups. These are taken 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 thing about 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.

“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**. Words cannot express our gratitude.”

- Amy and Stephanie, USA

If you are considering a study abroad year or semester, please write to us first with full information about your present studies and future plans, and an idea of what you hope to achieve during your time in Oxford. One of our staff members will be happy to offer you advice and to help you build the programme you are looking for. Where relevant, we will then contact your current school or college counsellors in order to best understand your current academic position, and to arrange accreditation where necessary.

All students taking a gap-year or study abroad semester receive full certification from OISC, with letters of recommendation and references to their school or college to ensure they receive credit where possible.

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. OISC is a wonderful place to be in the summer!

For groups of students we are able to arrange closed-group activities or integrate students with others. Groups can request that specific activities be included, but this cannot always be guaranteed and may be subject to additional fees.

Social Activities Programme

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
- Bowling
- Picnics in the Park
- Outdoor Sports
- Museum Visits
- Drama Workshops
- Barbecue in the Park
- Oxford City Tour
- Oxford University College Visits
- Harry Potter Tours of Oxford
- Cream Tea
- Cinema Trip

The programme also includes a full-day trip at the weekend. This usually takes place on Saturday, and students typically meet at around 8am and return home by about 6pm. 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.

Teaching Rooms

In the summer, we continue to use our year-round teaching rooms, but in addition we teach students in a variety of different special summer locations. These include Oxford University buildings, especially the Oxford Union and several Colleges of the University. This is a wonderful experience for older students, giving them a taste of genuine undergraduate life.

For group bookings, we are able to arrange university teaching rooms on request, subject to availability - early booking is essential!

“Really awesome activities - they were always fun, but **left me with no time for a nap!** They were great. Everyone who helped with the activities was really cool.”

- Salla, Sweden



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 will 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.

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 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 creative writing workshops
- Evening trip to view an open-air Shakespeare production
- 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 and Greece through to modern European history, whilst engaging with their languages.

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

Course 4: STEM

Our STEM course is structured in such a way that we explore all four pillars of the STEM schools of thinking. The tutors will be Oxford and Cambridge undergraduate and postgraduate STEM specialists in Natural Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, Materials Science etc.

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

Sample Schedule - Week One

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2pm: Arrive in College and unpack in rooms	9.15am - 10.45am: Lesson 1	9.15am - 10.45am: Lesson 5	9.15am - 10.45am: Lesson 9	9.15am - 10.45am: Lesson 13	9.15am - 10.45am: Lesson 17
	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
	11am - 12.30pm: Lesson 2	11am - 12.30pm: Lesson 6	11am - 12.30pm: Lesson 10 & 11	11am - 12.30pm: Lesson 14	11am - 12.30pm: Lesson 18 & 19
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
	1:30pm - 3pm: Lesson 3 & 4	1:30pm - 3pm: Lesson 7 & 8	1:30pm - 3pm: Lesson 12	1:30pm - 3pm: Lesson 15 & 16	1:30pm - 3pm: Lesson 20
6pm: Dinner in Hall 7.30pm: Meet the Group Social	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
	3:15pm - 5:15pm: Afternoon with Oxford University students in their Colleges	3:15pm - 5:15pm: Punting on the River	3:15pm - 5:15pm: Visit to the Ashmolean Museum	3:15pm - 4:00pm: Free Time 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Ice Skating	3:15pm - 5:15pm: Carfax Tower and Traditional English Cream Tea
	6pm: Dinner in Hall	6pm: Dinner in Hall	6pm: Dinner in Hall	6pm: Dinner in Hall	6pm: Dinner in Hall
	Free Time	7.30pm: Quiz Night	Free Time	7.30pm: Movie Night	Free Time

Saturday – 8am: Full-Day Excursion to Cambridge

“The Literature course was outstanding. Everybody in the OISC office makes an extra-ordinary effort to be flexible and nice and to make you feel at home. I will indeed recommend you to colleagues - I have learned a lot. Thank you!”

- Ulla, Denmark



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 and secure 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!



“Relationships between staff and students are excellent... Students express high levels of satisfaction at the level of effective attention given to their needs and concerns. **They feel valued and very well looked after.** They appreciate the caring ethos of the college and feel comfortable in approaching all members of staff.”

- Independent Schools' Inspectorate report, 2016

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. All contact with both personal tutors and other staff is entirely confidential. Personal tutors and academic staff will also assist students with university preparation and the application process where relevant. For further details on specific university preparation courses, please see page 13.

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 in Oxford, we encourage all students to take up one of the options we offer, to avoid stress, and to ensure a safe living environment. It also means that we can phone to wake them up if they are late for lessons!

Our Accommodation and Welfare Officer 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 if they wish, subject to availability. WiFi is available, free of charge, at all accommodation.

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

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. All family rooms are regularly visited by our Accommodation and Welfare Officer, who has a very good relationship with all hosts, and all host families are checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service for their suitability to accommodate students. They are also safeguarding trained. 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. 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 good - perfect. So I loved them very much! Everything was clean - room, sheets. Dinner every day was different, and always a friendly atmosphere at home.”

- Anastasiya, summer course student, Ukraine

Student Residence Accommodation

Our Student Residence accommodation option is extremely popular for long-term students. 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.

All rooms are single study bedrooms, and all have en-suite bathrooms. The Residence has a 24-hour warden and has key-card security access to ensure student safety. It is a good option for students who are not old enough to live alone, but would like more independence than the host family option. Male and female students live on separate floors.

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 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 next half term!"

- 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.

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.

These 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 - PIC Number: 931304373

"Thank you all very much for two wonderful, interesting, joyful, and challenging weeks. The course has been incredibly helpful and I am looking forward to taking these new techniques back to Germany. I am sure my teaching will improve greatly as a result."

- Petra, Germany



Programmes for Companies and Organisations

For further details on training courses, please see the website for Oxford International Corporate Training, found at www.oict.co.uk, or request a separate OICT brochure.

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. 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 | • International Relations and NGOs |
| • Finance and Banking | • Construction and Project Management |
| • Tourism | • Data and Communications |
| • Health Care | • Information Technology |
| • Business Management | • Marketing and Media |
| • International Law | • Education (School and University Teachers) |
| • Intercultural Communications | • Business and Social English |



“Thank you for your professional courses on behalf of both groups once more. The staff are all very happy and I’m sure I will have more groups for you very soon. The feedback really is stunning! **The lecturers must have been absolutely perfect** as I know both of our groups were very demanding. I look forward to working with you again.”

- Ada, Poland

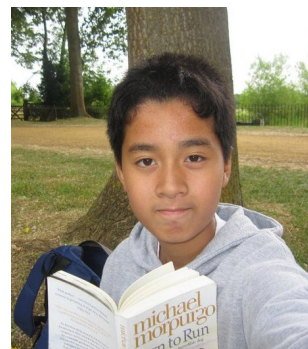
What people say about us...



“OISC gave me an amazing Oxford experience, and I'm so grateful for that! The people at OISC are wonderful, and I had a great time living and learning in such a beautiful setting. The effort they put in to make sure you're having a great time really shows. I'd go back in a heartbeat, I miss my time in Oxford! “

- Kris, USA

“ A very good time! Great teachers and very friendly people - easy to talk to. I was able to go around Oxford and famous English tourist destinations as well as studying and meeting new people.”



- Shoa, Japan



“I really had a great time with OISC! The teachers are enthusiastic and passionate, my English improved a lot and they gave me so much confidence about my English. It's really a wonderful school, with friendly and loving people!”

- Lara, The Netherlands

“Since the first day I knew that joining OISC was definitely the best choice I could have made, everybody was extremely nice and helpful to me and received me with open arms. I'd like to thank every single person at OISC for all the opportunities you gave me and having me for the past 8 weeks, I had an incredible experience and learned a lot. I would highly recommend it!”

- Gabriela, Brazil

“I loved my tea in the morning and being welcomed every day by smiling faces, flowers and ornaments from around the world. I feel like my time and lessons here have prepared me extremely well for university and have gone beyond that and given me a much broader general knowledge and appreciate of my education and a great desire to further it.”

- Lisa, South Africa



“Dear OISC - thank you for your outstanding effort undertaken to make my time in Oxford as good as possible. Thanks to you, we might see each other back here in Oxford...”

- Johannes, Germany

“What a WONDERFUL PLACE! Great memories and so pretty! Miss it so much. It taught me so much last summer. I wish I was back!”

- Bailey, USA

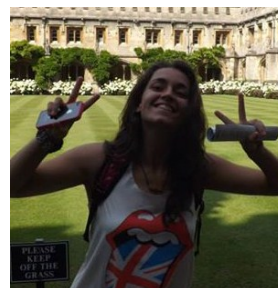


“If I had another chance I would definitely visit OISC again!”

- Prim, Thailand

“Amazing place! No words can describe the fun I have had learning and meeting new wonderful friends from all over the world. Thank you!”

- Patricia, Spain



“I had a teacher from God! I was extremely fortunate - he improved not only my knowledge of English but of culture, religion, and the history of different countries. My practical experience at the patisserie was just perfect! It was exactly what I needed. All my goals were achieved. My level of English is higher now, as well as practical experience in confectionery technology. Thanks to everybody who works at OISC. It was a real pleasure to study there.”

- Ekaterina, Russia

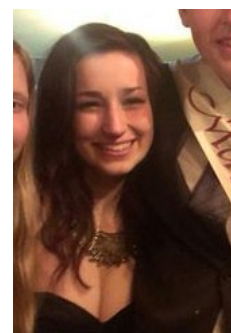
“OISC provided everything I needed during these two weeks. Both Maths and Chemistry tutors were brilliant and I gained a lot from their teaching.”

“None of the programs offered by my college were quite what I wanted, and OISC turned out to be exactly what I hoped for! I would highly recommend it. The staff and teachers were all extremely kind and knowledgeable. “

- Bridget, USA

“Each lesson was special and funny, but also I learned a lot. Everything was just perfect. Thank you for everything - I had the most wonderful time with you!”

- Kristyna, Russia



“All in all, truly outstanding, both for summer courses and university application help. In 2015 and 2016, I spent two weeks in Oxford with OISC in the summer and each time, it was an enriching experience: fascinating lessons, extremely friendly staff and interesting activities in the afternoons.”

- Michael, Austria

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.

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.



Visas

Do I require a visa to study in the UK?

If you are a national of the European Economic Area 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 to study in the UK - please check with your embassy. For short-term courses under 6 weeks, a tourism visa is sufficient. For longer programmes, we will recommend a Student Visitor Visa. We will advise you if a CAS is required.

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

Please contact us for detailed information regarding visa applications. Once an application for study 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 insert for our full refund policy.**

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 free care on the National Health Service (NHS), subject to the payment of the Health Surcharge, during the visa application process. You will have the opportunity to register with a local doctor on your first day at the college.

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.

Full information on all of our programmes is available through our website, where you can also submit an enquiry or complete our online Application Form.

If you would like further copies of any of our brochures, please contact us on

info@oxintstudycentre.com

indicating the number of each brochure you require:

- Full Prospectus
- Corporate Training Programmes
- Teacher Training Programmes



OISC is committed to the welfare, safety, and emotional wellbeing of our students and staff, and we are proud to be an Equal Opportunities employer. Full copies of all our policies and procedures are available on our website, and written copies are available on request.

Join the conversation about OISC...



@oxfordstudy



**[www.facebook.com/
OxfordInternationalStudyCentre](http://www.facebook.com/OxfordInternationalStudyCentre)**



oiscoxford

"I've been saying to everyone that one of my favourite things about my time at OISC has to be all the different people from different places in the world that I've met. I've really enjoyed chatting to them and learning about their cultures, languages, and countries - some of which I didn't even know existed! Meeting all these people from different countries has deepened my knowledge and interest in the world, and has given me a perspective on life which I would never have gained had I not met and interacted with all these different people. 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

