



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



A FAMILIES' GUIDE: SUPPORTING AN OXFORD APPLICANT





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FURTHER QUESTIONS?

If there's anything else you or your child would like to know about studying at university, please get in touch by emailing ox.ac.uk/ask.

 @studyatoxford
 @OxOutreach

WELCOME

As well as being the Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, I am the mother of two lovely sons. When it comes to deciding what to do after school, it seems to me that young people have more choices than ever before. This doesn't mean it's necessarily easier to make decisions. It can be tricky for families to know how best to help, especially if they haven't been to university themselves.

My approach is always to make sure I'm as informed as possible – at least then I have half a chance of being listened to! We have written this guide to give you information about studying at Oxford. But it's also about why we think going to university can be life-changing and can inspire talented students to go on to have extraordinary and happy lives. There's tips on how the child you are supporting can choose what they want to study, and guidance on how to put in the strongest possible application.

We want you to know that students are in safe hands at Oxford, so we have given details of all the support we offer, both during their time here, and after they have graduated. We also understand that you need to be clear on how costs will be covered. I can reassure you that our financial support for UK students is some of the most generous offered by any university. And of course, there's support for you too: if you've got any questions, please get in touch – we really are happy to help. Alternatively, you can always visit our website at ox.ac.uk/study.

We all want the best for our children but knowing how to help can be difficult, so I hope this guide makes it easier for you.



Dr Samina Khan
Director of Undergraduate
Admissions and Outreach



“”

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

ALISON

“”

I no longer perceive Oxford as the distant, foreign dream exclusively for privileged geniuses, but whatever I make of it. A place where I belong.

PHOENIX

WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY?

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



At the end of their time at Oxford, we hope our students will have developed the skills they need to do whatever they choose with their life. We want them to feel confident and excited about their future, and we believe that the opportunities they will have at university can play a big part in their success and happiness.

That said, we understand that choosing to go to university is a big decision, and it helps to be able to share this with those closest to us. Our students often tell us how much it meant being able to talk things over with family and friends. So, whether or not you have been to university yourself, please believe us when we say you can really help!

To begin, here are a few reasons why university might be a great choice for your child:

Planning the future

Students can find out more about themselves and what they want from life. They have the opportunity to plan well for the future.

Getting a good job

University offers the chance to develop skills which can help with finding a well-paid job afterwards. Graduates often earn more during their careers than people without degrees.

Meeting people

Students have the chance to meet people from all backgrounds and from all across the world. Friendships and connections made at university often last a lifetime.

Loving learning

If someone is curious about learning and loves to question things, then they are likely to enjoy studying at university. It will let them explore what interests them and to develop their understanding.



I was so excited by the idea of studying the subject I loved with the absolute world experts in the field.

LILY



WHY COME TO OXFORD?

ONE OF THE BEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD

Why should they think about Oxford? Well, if you are going to university, why not go to one of the best? There are some good reasons we have been voted the best university in the world* for the past four years.

*THE World Rankings, 2019-20

Changing the world

At Oxford you can learn from the people at the centre of ground-breaking research which is changing the future of the world.

ox.ac.uk/research

Expert careers advice

Our careers service offer all of our students free, lifelong and expert advice on job opportunities and guidance on further studying.

ox.ac.uk/careers

A perfect place to learn

With over 100 libraries, four world-class museums and around 1,500 laboratories, our students have some of the best learning facilities in the world on their doorstep.

ox.ac.uk/learningresources

First-class teaching

Oxford students benefit from a level of personalised attention from experts, which most universities do not offer.

ox.ac.uk/tutorials

Sharing the costs

Oxford offers generous financial support to those who need it most. One in four UK students currently receives a bursary (that doesn't need to be repaid) towards living costs, so they don't need to worry about money.

ox.ac.uk/funding



Close communities

Oxford is made up of over 30 colleges, which means students benefit from belonging to both a large, world-class university and a small, friendly community.

ox.ac.uk/ugcolls

Help when they need it

We all need a helping hand occasionally, and there are lots of people at Oxford to provide support when needed.

ox.ac.uk/students/shw

A world of opportunity

Students here do work hard, but there's also time to do other things. There are hundreds of opportunities to have fun, socialise and develop useful skills.

ox.ac.uk/opportunities

A fun and student-focused city

Oxford is not only beautiful, but it's a young city, full of students. It's a great place to live.

ox.ac.uk/livingin

DOES OXFORD HELP WITH FUTURE CAREERS?

TOWARDS SUCCESS AND A GOOD JOB

An Oxford degree provides a fantastic beginning to a successful future. Whatever subject your child studies, a wide range of opportunities will be available to them. Our careers service offers extensive support – for free and for life – to make sure your child feels confident about their future.

Will their degree help them find a good job?

While at Oxford, students have lots of opportunities to develop skills to help them find work and be successful in their jobs. Juggling studying with other responsibilities is powerful proof of good time management and efficiency. Student clubs and activities can also offer skills such as communication, budgeting and teamwork.



I'm now the managing editor for a student magazine, raising money for homelessness, leading a human rights forum and planning events for the African and Caribbean Society – all things I never thought I'd do at university.

KALYNA

What about work experience?

Oxford's short terms mean that students have plenty of time to complete internships or work experience in the holidays, and there are many ways of finding these opportunities. Our students have access to hundreds of internships, including hundreds of summer internships in the UK and abroad, as well as week-long internships in the UK. These are a great opportunity to gain an understanding of a particular job area.

What other careers support is available?

From understanding your child's career goals, to helping them achieve their ambitions, our careers service can offer guidance. They provide:

- individual advice
- training on building the skills employers look for
- training on making strong job applications
- careers fairs to meet potential employers
- around 12,000 job vacancies advertised
- advice on further studying.

What about once they have left Oxford?

Unlike most universities, all former Oxford students have access to the Oxford Careers Service for life. This includes advice sessions and access to thousands of job adverts. With over 300,000 Oxford graduates working all over the globe, your child can benefit from the support of other Oxford graduates, whatever they choose to do.

HOW IS EVERYTHING PAID FOR?

VERY FEW COSTS ARE PAID UP FRONT



Oxford is determined that all students who are offered a place to study here can afford to come. Very few costs are paid up front, and there is lots of financial support available for UK students, from the government, the University and a student's college.

What will it cost?

Students have to pay two costs.

Course fees:

This is the cost of course teaching and facilities.

- An Oxford degree costs the same as most UK universities.
- The exact course fee depends on whether your child is a UK or international student.
- At the moment, a UK student's course fees are £9,250 a year, but charges for 2021–22 won't be known until the autumn. For more details, go to: ox.ac.uk/ugfees.

Living costs:

This includes food, rent and social activities.

- These costs vary depending on a student's lifestyle but in 2020, the estimated total living costs for a student at Oxford, including rent and food, is between £1,135 and £1,650 a month. For more details, go to: ox.ac.uk/uglivingcosts.

How is it paid for?

All UK students can apply for and receive two different government loans:

Tuition fee loan:

- This covers the full amount of your child's course fees and is paid termly directly to the University.

Maintenance loan:

- This goes towards living costs and is paid to your child at the start of each term.
- How much your child receives will depend on their household income. For more details, go to: ox.ac.uk/funding.

How are loans repaid?

- Students only begin to pay back these loans once they have a job and are earning over £25,725 a year (as of the 2019/20 tax year).
- For example, a graduate earning £30,000 in 2019/20 could expect to pay back around £32 a month.
- Any unpaid loans are cancelled after 30 years.

Students from low-income households from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are currently able to apply for a non-repayable government maintenance grant.

EU Students: fee and support arrangements for EU students starting a course from 2021–22 are currently unknown. Check our website for the latest information: ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu.



DOES OXFORD HELP WITH COSTS?

GENEROUS FUNDING SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

We really don't want our students worrying about paying the bills, so Oxford offers one of the most generous financial support packages of any UK university. Around one in four UK students at Oxford currently receives a non-repayable bursary.

What funding is there?

Non-repayable funding is available to help UK students from lower-income households to cover their costs.

Crankstart Scholarships

A Crankstart Scholarship provides a non-repayable bursary of up to £5,000 per year towards study and living costs. It also gives access to funded internships to develop employment skills, as well as volunteering opportunities. Oxford's Crankstart scholarships are available to all UK students studying for their first degree with a household income of £27,500 or less.

Oxford Bursary

UK students who are studying for their first degree, and with a household income of less than £42,875 a year, (who have not received a Crankstart Scholarship) are eligible for an annual non-repayable bursary to help with cost. The amount of this bursary will depend on household income but can be up to £3,200 per year.

Oxford-Arlan Hamilton & Earline Butler Sims Scholarship

UK residents of Black African or Black Caribbean heritage who are from disadvantaged backgrounds can apply for this non-repayable scholarship, which covers fees and living costs for one undergraduate student per year, for three years.

Care experienced or estranged students

If your child has ever been in care for more than three months, or is estranged from their family, we can offer them a non-repayable annual bursary of up to £3,000. If they are also in receipt of a Crankstart Scholarship, they can be eligible for a total maximum bursary of £7,200 each year.

Oxford travel supplement

If your child has a Crankstart Scholarship or Oxford Bursary and lives between 80 and 150 miles from Oxford, they will be given a non-repayable annual Oxford Travel Supplement of £200. If they live more than 150 miles from Oxford, they will receive £500.

Student Support Fund

This fund helps UK students who may require financial assistance in a range of circumstances. If your child has a gap in their finances or needs to meet additional exceptional costs once they have started their course, they will be able to apply for non-repayable supplementary funding.





“””
Eating in college is really cheap, and you rarely have to buy books because Oxford has everything.
MAEVE

How do colleges keep costs down?

Many colleges offer extra funding for things like research, equipment and study-related travel, as well as hardship funding for students who have significant or unexpected financial needs.

How does Oxford make their money stretch further?

- With over 100 libraries housing over 13 million printed items around Oxford, students can normally find the books and study resources they need without having to buy them.
- Oxford colleges provide subsidised food and entertainment, so eating and having an active social life doesn't need to cost much.
- The University and colleges have their own sports facilities which are normally free or subsidised for students.
- Your child will be offered a college room for at least two years of their course. This means they only need to pay rent during term time, which is normally only eight weeks long.



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

“””
Bursary support is crucial since it covers most of the accommodation costs. I do not need to worry about my financial situation, and can focus on my studies.
LUKAS

HOW DO THEY CHOOSE A COURSE?

DO SOMETHING THEY LOVE

Some students want to study their favourite school subject at university, others want to learn about something new. Choosing a course is the most important decision students make when applying to university. We know it can be difficult to decide, but what matters most is that your child chooses a course they really want to know more about and will enjoy studying. Whatever their degree course, our students have a choice of exciting careers when they finish here.



How can they choose the right course?

There are several different ways to pick the right course to study.

A favourite subject

Some people have a favourite subject from school that they want to study at university. It is worth looking at the detail of what is involved in the course, as some subjects can be quite different at university than at school.

Several subjects combined

Oxford offers a range of 'joint' courses, which are different subjects studied together at the same time. This means that students can explore different subjects they are interested in, and see how they can work together.

Something new

There are also lots of courses that are not normally available at school, for example Archaeology and Anthropology, Biochemistry, and Human Sciences. These courses are perfect for students who want to learn about something new that fascinates them.

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

**JONATHAN BLACK,
CAREERS SERVICE**



WATCH our choosing a course video
ox.ac.uk/whichcourse



Are courses at all universities the same?

Courses at different universities can be very different, even if they are called the same thing. It is a good idea for your child to look at the detail of what is involved in the course to make sure it covers what they are interested in.

What are courses at Oxford like?

There are a wide range of courses at Oxford, but they have some things in common.

- All of our courses last at least three years, but some can take four or five. This is usually if they include a year abroad or an extended project.
- All of our courses includes essential topics, plus various options that students can choose from, depending on what they are most interested in.

What grades are needed to get in?

The grades that a student gets at A-level (or equivalent) make a big difference to the university courses that might be open to them. Students also need to have studied certain subjects to be able to apply for some courses.

To make a strong application to Oxford, a student would be expected to get three A-levels (or equivalent). The grades they need vary depending on the course they apply to, and many successful candidates actually get higher grades than these, but it is usually around:

- A-levels: A*A*A-AAA.
- If your child is taking any science A-levels, they are also expected to take and pass the practical components.



WHAT TEACHING IS THERE?

EXPERT AND PERSONALISED



Oxford teaching is different to most other universities. Each student gets a great deal of personalised attention from their tutors, whilst also being encouraged to learn independently.

How are students taught at Oxford?

Students at Oxford normally receive regular tutorial teaching during term time. A tutorial is a conversation on a course topic, usually between a tutor and two or three students, and lasts about an hour. During this time, they will talk about what the students have been learning that week and they will be given feedback on prepared work. Depending on what course they are doing, this may be on an essay or a problem sheet.

Are there other types of teaching?

As well as tutorials, students also attend lectures, where a tutor talks to a large group about a topic. They might also have weekly classes with a group of students. Some courses, particularly science ones, have practical sessions in laboratories or fieldwork out and about.

Do they also study on their own?

At Oxford, students are expected to do a lot of work on their own. This often involves working through a reading list of books, writing an essay or completing a problem sheet of questions. Students work on these tasks independently, but their tutors may be available to answer questions and give support. This style of working means that students can learn to manage their time very well. Students doing science courses with practical work are likely to work less on their own than those doing essay-based subjects like History or English.

Are there exams?

Courses at Oxford are mainly assessed by exams but, depending on the subject, might also involve projects or long essays. In most courses, students take exams in their first year. They must pass these, but they do not count towards their final class of degree. Over the next years, students work towards 'final' exams, which usually take place in their last term. The results of these exams decide their class of degree.



The tutorial system is incredible and unmatched by any other form of education delivery.
ADITI

Learning skills for the future

The way students are taught at Oxford gives them strong skills - like thinking for themselves and communicating clearly - that can be used in their later lives and careers.

WHAT OTHER STUDY HELP IS THERE?

INDIVIDUAL HELP, MILLIONS OF BOOKS AND QUIET PLACES TO LEARN

Students work hard at Oxford, but there is plenty of support available, and lots of libraries and other facilities make this as smooth as possible. We do our best to make sure that all students, whatever their circumstances, are able to get the most from their course and time at Oxford.

Who can they go to for support?

Every student at Oxford is given a personal tutor, who oversees their studies. They might not always be taught by this person, but it means there is someone they can go to with questions or concerns. This tutor gets to know each student every well, and can give them a lot of personalised attention and support.

What if they have specific needs?

If your child has any particular needs – for example, if they are eligible for extra time in their exams or need specific IT equipment – the Disability Advisory Service is there to help them get the support they need. To help cover any additional costs, your child may be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance.

ox.ac.uk/das

What about libraries and places to learn?

Students also have access to amazing facilities to help with their studies.

Oxford libraries

Students have free access to most, if not all, of the books they will ever need, and plenty of quiet places to study. They will be trained to use the libraries, and our expert staff can help your child make the most of the huge number of printed and online books and information available.

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Museums and galleries

Oxford has seven museums and collections. These are great to explore in spare time, but are also used by students on a wide range of courses.

www.glam.ox.ac.uk



The Radcliffe Science Library is next to the Pitt Rivers Museum which makes a good spot to take a break. The prayer room nearby makes it a convenient study location.
AMINA

The Language Centre

Students at Oxford don't have to be studying a language degree to be able to learn a language whilst they are here. We have a centre that runs classes for everyone from beginners to experts. Learning a language here can help your child's future, whether in their studies, their career, or travel.

www.lang.ox.ac.uk

WHERE DO STUDENTS LIVE?

SAFE AND WELCOMING COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

During their studies, students belong to one of our colleges. There are over 30 colleges located around Oxford's city centre. These are safe and welcoming communities where your child will spend much of their time, particularly when they first arrive here. Oxford doesn't have a central campus like some other universities.



The friendly family atmosphere that you get with such a close-knit community is almost like a second family and makes you feel at home.

JACK

What is a college?

Colleges are the centre of Oxford life, and most students feel that this is their home from home. A college is where students can eat, live, spend time with friends and do their washing. College tutors support students' learning, and normally teach students in their colleges. Colleges have entrance lodges which are usually staffed 24/7. Your child will also meet people from other colleges in their subject department and at university-wide events. Lots of events are organised across colleges and students often have friends over.

What are the differences?

Each college has its own character, but life in them is pretty similar. Some are very old, others are much newer. Some are fairly big and others are quite small. Whichever college they belong to, your child's degree course will be taught in the same way.

Do you choose a college?

When they apply, your child can either choose a particular college or submit an 'open application', which is like saying "I don't mind." We hope people won't worry too much about choosing a college - most students think their college is best - choosing the right course to study is far more important.

In 2019, 35% of successful applicants got an offer from a college they didn't choose in their application.





Particular requirements

If your child has any special accommodation requirements, it's really important to let us know as soon as possible. We would encourage them to contact our Disability Advisory Service for advice.

ox.ac.uk/das

Do you live in college?

All our students are given a college room for their first year. This is arranged by the college, so your child won't need to sort it out themselves. All colleges offer rooms for at least one other year, and some offer them for the whole course. Living in private accommodation can be more expensive as contracts normally cover a full year, including the holidays. Students who don't live in their college still can use all the facilities, and many really enjoy living with friends and the experience of living independently for the first time.

What about meals?

All students can eat subsidised hot meals in their college dining hall. They may also have access to kitchen facilities where they can make their own food, if they'd like.

Can my child live at home?

Undergraduates must live within six miles of central Oxford, or within 25 miles if they live in their family home. There are some exceptions to this, but we think it helps students to get the most out of their time at Oxford.

What are college rooms like?

These rooms might be in main college buildings or somewhere nearby. Rooms can vary in size, but they are good quality and are furnished - and your child will never have to share a bedroom. Some college rooms have their own shower or bathroom. Many students sometimes choose to study in their room and desks are provided. New students are normally given rooms near each other so it's easy to get to know others who have just arrived.

Care experienced and estranged students are provided with a non-repayable bursary of up to £3,000 to help with costs during the vacation. They are also given help to secure 365-day accommodation.



WHO LOOKS OUT FOR THEM?

HELP AND ADVICE IS ON HAND



Most students are over 18 when they come to university and are therefore adults. But many will also just have left school and this will be the first time that they have lived away from home. We want everyone to feel at home here and settle in quickly and there are lots of people available to help.

What support is there?

Oxford takes the wellbeing of all of its students very seriously. There are plenty of ways your child can find support if times get tough. College tutors support your child's studies but they can also give advice on other things. Lots of other college staff, including welfare officers, help students settle in and are around to give advice on practical or health matters.

What health support is available?

Most students have access to a college nurse, as well as a local GP surgery. The John Radcliffe hospital has an A&E department and is 15 minutes' drive away.

What if they are disabled?

Our Disability Advisory Service are there to make sure all of our students with either seen or unseen disabilities can make the most of their time at Oxford.

ox.ac.uk/das

Where can my child go to talk?

- The University has a free counselling service which offers one-on-one and group sessions with trained counsellors, as well as workshops and self-help materials.
ox.ac.uk/students/shw
- Volunteer peer supporters are trained by the counselling service, so students can talk to other students if they prefer. There are specific programmes for LGBTQ+ students and students of colour.
- Oxford's student union runs a general advice service where students can open up in confidence about their worries, for example, about managing money or sorting out a relationship.
oxfordsu.org/wellbeing
- Run for and by students, Oxford Nightline gives students the opportunity to chat to someone about anything and everything between 8pm-8am every night during term time.
oxfordnightline.org



Oxford has worship facilities and societies for a wide range of faith groups.



Having a mental illness has always made me doubt the prospect of my university success, academically or otherwise. Thankfully, my tutors and fellow students make me feel valued and respected, which allows me to flourish.

ANNA

IS THERE TIME FOR FUN AND FRIENDS?

HUNDREDS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE AND ENJOY

One of the best things about going to university is the social life. Oxford is no different. There are lots of people to meet, things to do and chances to discover new interests and talents. While Oxford students work hard, they still have plenty of time to have a laugh, relax and enjoy themselves.

What activities can my child get involved in?

Oxford has an enormous range of activities for students to get involved in when they are not studying. These are not only lots of fun and a great way to make friends, but also offer the chance to build useful skills for the future.

Clubs and societies

From music, sports, politics or drama, to religious faiths, national and cultural groups there is something for everyone.

Sport

Oxford has 80 sports clubs and there are lots of different ways to take part. It doesn't matter whether you are a beginner or training as an international athlete.

Music and drama

There are a huge range of bands, choirs and orchestras to join as well as some amazing opportunities on stage and on screen for actors, directors and writers.

Will there be people like them?

Our staff and students come from all kinds of backgrounds. Your child is likely to find people like them and not like them. We think this is one of the most enjoyable and exciting things about student life here. Joining one or more of the hundreds of groups, clubs, societies or campaigns at Oxford is definitely one of the easiest ways for your child to meet friends and find their people.



Through throwing myself into college social life from the start, and joining the university-wide African and Caribbean Society, Oxford has shown me that it can be a place for anyone, regardless of their background.

ANDI

There are groups, clubs and societies at Oxford for a wide range of backgrounds, nationalities and faiths.

What is Oxford like to live in?

Oxford is ranked as one of the top ten safest student cities* in the UK, so your child can enjoy themselves without you having to worry too much! The city is home to two universities; the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University and has one of the largest student populations in the UK. It is a fun and vibrant place to live.

ox.ac.uk/livingin

*The Complete University Guide

WHO STUDIES AT OXFORD?

PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS WITH VERY DIFFERENT INTERESTS

There are nearly 12,000 undergraduate students at Oxford, with an amazing range of backgrounds and interests. They come from all types of school and from all over the world. What they share is a love of learning and a talent for studying.



Will they be welcome at Oxford?

We want everyone to feel welcomed, valued and respected here. At the moment we know that some talented students don't think Oxford is for them and we want that to change. We want them to realise that Oxford is a realistic goal for anyone with academic talent and commitment. It is really important that people from all sorts of backgrounds study with us – this is what helps to make Oxford one of the most exciting places to learn in the world.

Does it matter where my child goes to school?

We are always looking for students with the greatest talent for studying, whatever their background. We understand that it is more difficult for some students to achieve the highest grades because of their circumstances. That is why we look at lots of different information when we consider applications. We want to make sure we understand students' achievements in the context of their individual experiences. You can read more about how we do this at: [ox.ac.uk/context](https://www.ox.ac.uk/context).



There's no type of student at Oxford. It's beautifully diverse and you will find your place.

ADITI



I am very happy my scepticism regarding how much I'd fit in did not keep me from applying as I have had one of the best years of my life.

CHRISTY



The African Caribbean Society blessed me with the chance to meet so many different inspirational students from different backgrounds.

PHOENIX

20% of Oxford undergraduate students have declared a disability.

How is Oxford changing?

Some groups are still under-represented here, but this is changing. The University is already attracting more black and minority ethnic students than ever before (more than 22% of our 2019 undergraduate intake).

By 2023, we are aiming for 25% of places to go to Oxford undergraduates from UK backgrounds that are currently under-represented here. That's why we are setting up two exciting new access programmes called **Opportunity Oxford** and **Foundation Oxford**. Taking part in our **UNIQ programme** for UK state school students is already likely to increase someone's chance of getting a place to study here. Our collaboration with **Target Oxbridge** aims to support black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage in making strong applications to Oxford.

Alongside these programmes, we run thousands of outreach activities with state schools and communities every year and across the country. We want to make sure that anyone anywhere can find out what student life at Oxford might be like and how to apply. All of this is already making a big difference and our students are coming from more and more different backgrounds.



19% of Oxford undergraduate students identify as black or minority ethnic.



HOW DO THEY APPLY?

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR



Getting a place at Oxford is a big achievement. Most recently, over 23,000 people applied for around 3,250 places. That is why the process of applying to Oxford is a bit more complicated than at most other universities. We want to find students who will be able to make the most of all that Oxford has to offer, who will be happy and will flourish here.

How is applying to Oxford different?

Applying to any UK university takes planning, but there are a few more steps to applying to Oxford:

- Oxford applications are due in October, rather than January like many others.
- Your child will apply through UCAS, just as for any other UK university.
- Oxford applications often involve admissions tests. Students have to check to see if they need to sit a test, register for it by the deadline and practise using sample papers online at ox.ac.uk/tests.
- Some of our courses need students to submit written work. Your child can find out if they will need to do this on our website.
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to come to Oxford in December to attend an interview. This is an academic conversation with a potential tutor.

All of these steps help us find the most talented applicants who will really enjoy the way students study here.

How can I help my child make the best application?

- Top school grades are important so encourage your child to study subjects at school that they enjoy and are likely to do well.
- Your child should choose a subject they will enjoy studying for three or more years. Encourage them to think carefully, and to consider subjects they haven't studied before.
- Suggest they start their UCAS application over the summer – the personal statement is likely to take much longer than they think!
- If their course includes an admissions test, make sure they register for it by the **15 October** deadline. Students who practice for these tests tend to do better, so encourage your child to read our advice and have a go at the test papers on our website.



**Application
deadline:**
6pm
15 October

Everything your child needs to know can be found on our website in the *Guide for applicants*. If they still have any questions, they are welcome to contact us at: ox.ac.uk/ask.

HOW CAN WE DISCOVER MORE?

EVENTS AND ONLINE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU

We know that it can be difficult for your child to decide which university to apply to, and where they would be happiest. To help them feel more confident about applying to Oxford, we run thousands of free events each year, both in Oxford and around the UK. You can find out about all the events and resources available for families on our website at ox.ac.uk/study.

Are there events we can attend?

- Oxford runs three university-wide open days each year. These are a brilliant way to find out more about student life, to look around colleges and departments and to meet current students and tutors.

ox.ac.uk/opendays

- Several of our subject departments also run their own open days.

ox.ac.uk/access

- If they are not able to travel to Oxford, your child can attend an Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference. These 'travelling open days' take place across the country.

oxfordandcambridgeoutreach.co.uk

What about programmes where they can stay in Oxford?

- Find out more about UNIQ, our free programme for Year 12 students at UK state schools.

uniq.ox.ac.uk

- Find out more about Target Oxbridge if your child is black or mixed race and from African and Caribbean heritage.

targetoxbridge.co.uk

Are there places online we can use?

- Follow [@StudyAtOxford](https://www.instagram.com/StudyAtOxford) on Instagram
- Read more advice on supporting your child's move from school to university at

ox.ac.uk/forfamilies.



Is there anything specific to my area?

Every school and college in the UK has a specific contact at the University. Groups of Oxford colleges work together to connect with different regions of the country, and provide support that is suited to local needs. This means that, wherever they live, your child can access support and information about applying to university.

ox.ac.uk/linkcolls

HOW CAN WE KEEP THEM INTERESTED?

FEEDING THEIR CURIOSITY

We know that children are born with curiosity about their world, and this is how they learn. Our curiosity is a huge natural talent. We're sure you know children with endless questions. We also know that teachers are very busy, trying to help many children with many different needs, and sometimes talented students can become bored at school. So, how can you help feed the hungry brains in your family?

Firstly, please don't think you have to have all the answers! Just talking about what interests children can really help, and it can be good for them to feel like they are the expert. It might result in even more questions, but it will also mean they keep thinking. You can also suggest where they might find more information - and not just in books. Don't worry if they seem only interested in one thing - knowing a lot about a few things, rather than a little about a lot is just another way of learning. What's important is that they continue to love learning.

Here are a few ideas for hungry brains:

Under 16

- Try out Oxplore, our free educational website for 11-18 year olds which explores some of those big questions we know they love. **oxplore.org**
- Explore together: on TV, in books, magazines and online.
- Look for YouTube videos on their favourite topics.
- Check out videos of some of Oxford's latest discoveries at **ox.ac.uk/reading**.
- Go to events at any local museums: these are often free.
- Find out about holiday programmes in your area; some are free and funded by local councils.
- Talk about new experiences with them.

Over 16

- Explore MOOCs (Massive Open and Online Courses), other online courses and lectures. **www.mooc.org**
www.edx.org
- Encourage them to look at online magazines.
- Check out some Ted Talks on topics they are interested in. **www.ted.com/talks**
- Look at the HuffPost, an online newspaper with lots of young writers. **www.huffingtonpost.co.uk**





