

Graduate Study at the University of Oxford

A guide to applying for students from the USA



- ✓ PROGRAMMES AND COLLEGES
- ✓ SCHOLARSHIPS
- ✓ APPLYING TO OXFORD
- ✓ VISA SUPPORT
- ✓ CAREERS AND ALUMNI
- ✓ STUDENT PROFILES

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses | www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usa

The University of Oxford is ranked first in the UK and joint second in the world*, and is renowned for its teaching and research across the arts and sciences. Oxford seeks to attract the best students from around the world. The United States is the largest source of international students and academic staff at Oxford. Currently, more than 1,000 US graduate students are studying in Oxford's historic libraries, conducting research in our state-of-the-art laboratories and enjoying membership of our world-famous colleges.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usa

*Times Higher Education Supplement's World University Rankings 2013-14



Graduate students make up around **45%** of Oxford's student body.



5,403
Students on Graduate Research Degrees (eg DPhil, MSc Research)



4,447
Students on Graduate Taught Degrees (eg MSc, MSt, MPhil)

Scholarships

Over 900 fully-funded scholarships are available for new master's and doctoral students in 2015–16 from the University, our colleges and supporters.

Oxford offers full scholarships covering tuition fees and living costs to give the brightest candidates from around the world the opportunity to pursue graduate study. Scholarships are available for the full academic range of Oxford's graduate courses and are usually awarded on the basis of academic excellence. You will be automatically considered for most of Oxford's scholarships if you apply by the relevant January deadline.

Clarendon Fund

The Clarendon Fund offers over 130 full scholarships every year. Clarendon scholarships cover full fees as well as a generous grant for living expenses – funded by Oxford University Press, Oxford's colleges and other external partners. All applicants are automatically considered. There are currently 90 US Clarendon scholars at Oxford.

www.clarendon.ox.ac.uk

Rhodes and the USA

The first American Rhodes Scholars came to Oxford in 1904. Rhodes Scholarships are unique to Oxford and have been instrumental in attracting talented American graduate students to Oxford. Thirty-two scholars are now selected every year from over 300 American colleges and universities.

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Frost Scholarship Programme

The Frost Scholarship Programme provides 10 full scholarships for current students of the State University System of Florida to study one-year, full-time master's courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the University of Oxford.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/frost

Other university-wide funding opportunities available to US students include:

- Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme in the Humanities
- Fulbright Oxford Clarendon Scholarship
- Marshall Scholarships
- Santander Graduate Awards

Loans and grants

The University of Oxford is eligible to certify loan applications for the Direct Loan Program – a US federal loan scheme, available to US citizens only. Although most US applicants are eligible for these loans, private loans are also available. You can usually borrow up to your full cost of attendance. www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usloans

The University is also able to process applications for the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 GI Bill.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/otherfunding

Automatic consideration for most scholarships

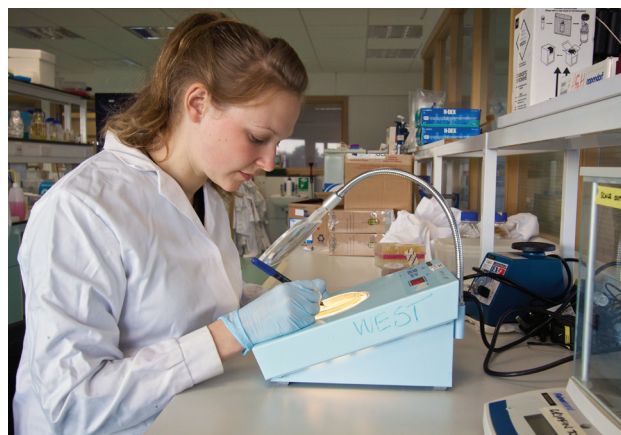
You will be automatically considered for most of Oxford's scholarships if you apply for your course by the relevant January deadline.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/scholarships



See our scholarships

Use our online tool to find graduate scholarship opportunities: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/fundingsearch



Oxford's programmes

Oxford's graduate programmes are short and high quality, facilitating students' swift career progression. Oxford offers around 200 master's-level programmes (usually 9–12 months; some courses take 2 years) and 120 DPhil (PhD) programmes (3–4 years), across a wide range of disciplines. Students on master's-level programmes attend lectures and seminars, and are typically assessed by exams and coursework. Students on doctoral programmes complete a major research project and thesis, meeting regularly with a supervisor.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses

Oxford's colleges

As an Oxford graduate student, you will belong to a department which will provide your teaching and supervision. You will also be a member of one of the University's world-famous colleges. Belonging to a college is one of the most unique aspects of studying at Oxford and offers you access to a multidisciplinary community of fellow students from all over the world, with whom you can socialise. You can also enjoy stimulating discussions with students and academic staff from a variety of subjects. Some colleges are for graduates only, whereas others accept both undergraduates and graduates. All colleges offer meals and many provide accommodation too.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/colleges



Life in Oxford

Living in Oxford is a truly special student experience where centuries of tradition sit alongside a bustling and modern cosmopolitan city. There is a vibrant community of friendly and dynamic people from all parts of the world and a multitude of events take place on a daily basis, including art exhibitions, public lectures, sports competitions, film screenings, and concerts, as well as student-organised social and cultural events. Oxford is 60 miles from London and is a great base for exploring Europe.



Student societies

International students are well catered for by Oxford's student groups and societies, of which there are over 400. These range from music, literature, sport, politics and performing arts to media, faiths, cultural groups, science, opportunities for volunteering and much more. Whatever your level of expertise, you can become involved in a club or society that interests you.



Frequently asked questions

- Q.** Do I need to contact a supervisor?
- A.** For PhDs, usually yes. See the selection criteria on your course page.
- Q.** Do I need a master's?
- A.** Many PhD courses require a master's degree in a relevant subject. See the selection criteria on your course page.
- Q.** What should my statement of purpose include?
- A.** The statement of purpose should be academically-focused, explaining why you chose the course at Oxford and what relevant experience you can bring to the course.

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses

Applying to Oxford

Every graduate course has a main application deadline in **January**. You will need to submit a complete application by the January deadline if you want to be considered for most of Oxford's scholarship schemes:

- **Friday 9 January 2015** – Courses offered by the Medical Sciences Division, the Department of Computer Science, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Department of Politics and International Relations, and the Saïd Business School.
- **Friday 23 January 2015** – Courses offered by all other departments and faculties.

Some courses may accept applications for the other two main application deadlines – Friday 21 November 2014 and Friday 13 March 2015 – and/or after the main deadlines if funding or places are still available. Some also offer separate application deadlines for specific studentships, so check our online course pages for full course-specific information.

A complete application will include your CV, your official transcript(s), three academic references and a statement of purpose or research proposal. Some courses also require samples of written work, admissions tests, or a GMAT/GRE score.

Everything you need to know about applying can be found on our course pages: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses

Apply online: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/apply

The Rothermere American Institute (RAI)

Opened in 2001, the Rothermere American Institute is an international centre of excellence dedicated to the interdisciplinary and comparative study of the USA. Bringing together scholars, intellectuals, policy-makers, and public figures from around the world and housing the Oxford Centre for Research in United States History (OxCrush), it seeks to promote a greater public and academic understanding of the history, culture, and politics of the USA. It also hosts the Vere Harmsworth Library (part of the Bodleian Library), the finest library of Americana to be found outside the USA.

www.rai.ox.ac.uk



Essential requirements for graduate study

A strong undergraduate degree, usually at least between 3.5–3.8 GPA (in the 4.0 system).

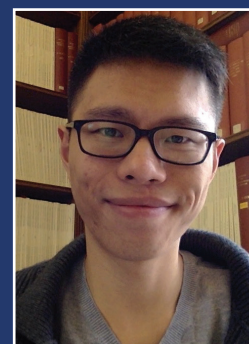
and

a number of requirements specific to your course, listed under Selection Criteria in the Course Guide.

Visa support

We offer help and support throughout the student visa process for all our international students. Our website contains further details and you can also contact one of our Visa and Immigration advisers for guidance:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/visa



Victor Yang,
DPhil Politics
(St John's College)
previously studied at
Harvard
University.

"I first came to Oxford

three years ago as a visiting student, and I keep on coming back. It is here that I have met friends and ideas from all over the world. The doctoral experience here is defined by an academic freedom and flexibility unique to Oxford and the UK system."

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usa

Careers

To help students on their way to exciting and fulfilling careers, Oxford offers comprehensive careers advice and support to all our students and alumni. This helps them to develop the necessary skills for applying for jobs, further study, and success in the workplace. The Careers Service provides access to UK-based and international internships, and work experience whilst you are studying, plus a wide range of employers and job opportunities for the next stage of your career.

www.careers.ox.ac.uk

Alumni

The University of Oxford has a long history of providing students with the skills, experience, and confidence to follow their passions and Oxford has links with more than 50 Nobel Prize winners. The USA is home to over 23,000 Oxford alumni, with 33 alumni branches across at least 23 states. The University of Oxford North American Office was established in New York in 1989. Through its programmes in fundraising and alumni relations, the North American Office supports the University and its colleges to fulfil its mission to provide excellence in research, scholarship and teaching to the global community. Alumni in the USA can all access a full range of benefits and services from exclusive events to careers guidance and continuing education opportunities. www.oxfordna.org

Oxford's distinguished American alumni include:

- **Bill Clinton**, 42nd President of the United States from 1993 to 2001 (Rhodes Scholar)
- **Reid Hoffman**, Co-Founder of LinkedIn and venture capitalist (Marshall Scholar)
- **Elena Kagan**, Supreme Court Justice and former Dean, Harvard Law School
- **Eric Lander**, Founding Director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and a principal leader of the Human Genome Project (Rhodes Scholar)
- **Rachel Maddow**, television host, author, political commentator (Rhodes Scholar)
- **Andrew Michael Spence**, former Dean of Stanford Business School and Nobel Laureate

Contact Details

Contact the Graduate Admissions and Funding Team:

Online: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask

Phone (admissions): +44 (0)1865 270059

Phone (funding): +44 (0)1865 280487

 [oxfordgradstudy](https://twitter.com/oxfordgradstudy)  [oxfordgradstudy](https://www.facebook.com/oxfordgradstudy)

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usa



Evan Easton-Calabria, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (Wolfson College) previously studied at the University of Washington.

"It's been awesome – the people

are relaxed, my professors are approachable and in general it's more laid back than I expected. There's also more of an off-campus arts scene than I expected with open mic nights. At Oxford, I've met people doing what I want to do. It's really inspiring so has improved my focus."

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/usa

Undergraduate Admissions

If you are interested in studying for an undergraduate degree at Oxford, please look at the undergraduate admissions website:

www.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate

or contact the team at:

undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk

Most of the images used in this brochure were submitted by current graduate students and recent alumni as part of photography competitions that took place in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Front cover: Rob Judges / Oxford University Images; p.1: Jonathan Webb; p.2: Ralph Williamson; p.3: Emily Dolmans, Hope Stockton; p.4: Liliith Dornhuber