

Summer Online Courses FAQs

Online Summer Courses 2020 Adjusted from Oxford Study Abroad On-campus Summer Programme @St Antony's College, University of Oxford



Summer Session online course are taught by Oxford faculty 100% online. You will not have to visit campus to complete an online course. While online courses allow students flexibility in their schedules to some extent, they are also highly structured with clear expectations and due dates.

Students have many opportunities to practice and demonstrate what they are learning individually and in groups through discussion forums, writing assignments, projects, and video conferences.

1. [What should students know before enrolling in an online course?](#)

While the registration process for online and on-campus classes is often similar, prospective online students should review the course type and requirements before enrolling.

Requirements for application:

*Sound academic performance

70 (on a 100 scale) at the minimum.

Requirement can be different due to different grading systems of different partner universities. For more details, please contact your home institutions.

* 1st-year undergraduates from some partner universities do not need to submit academic results.

*English proficiency

(1) IELTS: minimum 5.5 for overall average

(2) TOEFL: minimum 85 for the overall score

(3) College English Test (CET)-4: minimum 425 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only.)

(4) College English Test (CET)-6: minimum 500 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only)

* For those applicants who have not taken the above tests by the time of application or have not been in a professional English-speaking environment for years, their English proficiency must be assessed through Tele-interview by a programme officer

* This requirement for proof of English proficiency is not required for applicants whose first language is English, those whose first language is not English but have been involved in a full-time degree-level academic programme at a university where English is the language of instruction, or those who have extensive experience working in a professional English-speaking environment.

* The selection panel of the Course will consider the overall qualifications of each applicant.

Dates: this course is completed entirely online

Orientation Week: 28-30 July 2020

Teaching Weeks: 3rd -14th August 2020

Feedback Week: 17-21 August 2020

Technology Requirement: All online courses rely on ZOOM for videos and other course materials.

Two weeks of the online courses are roughly equivalent to 40 hours of classroom time, and please read the brochure for more detailed information on the programme.

Courses (Part A + Part B):

Part A: General Themed Interdisciplinary Lectures(Two Options/20 hrs per course)

- 1) Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2) Science & Innovation

Part B: Specific Subject Courses (5 Options/20 hrs per course)

- 1)Culture, Art and Society
- 2)General Cutting-edge Science and Innovation Course
- 3)Internet Analysis and Data Mining
- 4)Business and Management
- 5)Future Cities and Public Policy

Note: You may get informed to change to another specific subject course if the number of applicants for that course is less than 20.

Tuition Fee: £1, 250 Pounds

Note: Each applicant from the partner universities with the application submitted before **Friday 26th June 2020** is offered a favourable discount of **£50 off the tuition fee.**

The tuition (2 weeks/40 hours) includes two courses- Part A course of 20-hr themed interdisciplinary lectures and Part B 20-hr specific subject course.

Application Deadline: Tuesday 30th June 2020

[2. What does a Summer Session online course look like?](#)

Online courses are much like classroom courses, except that the delivery of learning materials (lectures, homework, quizzes, readings) and interaction with students and instructors will be through the online system. Students may need to purchase textbooks or access to materials online. Instructors and teaching assistants lead discussions and are available for feedback and questions. For courses that have a final assignment, they are taken online through the supervision of the instructors.

Course support Officer will email you on the Students Orientation Guide and prior to the course start date.

[3.Does my online course requires a final exam or assignment?](#)

In most online courses, final exams or assignment are timed, open book, and based in written or project work. These can be taken anywhere. The final exam and assignment will be made by the instructors. The course support officer will let you know the details before each course begins. The course support officer will send you email by providing you with some scoring information during the term.

Note: Students themselves are responsible for all arrangements connected to final exam or assignment and reading materials before the course start.

[4. I am going to be in another country during the summer. Can I still take an online course? How do I take my final exam in another country?](#)

Yes, as long as you have high-speed Internet connection, you can participate fully in a Summer Session online course.

Note: Students themselves are responsible for all arrangements connected to final exam or assignment and reading materials before the course start.

[5. How do students interact in an online class?](#)

If a course does not have a synchronous component or requires students to travel to campus, students may otherwise communicate through discussion forums, social media and – particularly for group work – videoconferencing, as well as phone and email.

Online learners interact with instructors in similar ways, though they may need to be more proactive than on-campus students to develop a strong relationship. That may involve introducing themselves to their instructor before classes start and attending discussion.

[6. How do I get my course materials, course schedule, assignments and grades?](#)

Course Support Officer will deliver you all the course materials, course schedule, assignment and grades. If your class requires you to purchase a text or accompanying materials, you may need to purchase by yourself.

And your schedule, assignment and final grade will be delivered to you by email after the summer sessions end.

[7. What are typical assignments in online courses?](#)

These depend largely on the discipline. But in general, students should expect assignments that are similar to those in on-campus programmes, such as research papers – in addition to online-specific assignments, such as responding to professor-posed questions in a discussion board.

An online course may also require group projects where students communicate virtually, as well as remote presentations. These can be challenging for online learners, who often live across various time zones.

[8. Technology Requirements](#)

- You need access to a computer (desk or laptop) and a reliable internet connection for the duration for the course.
- Web camera and microphone (most laptops have them built-in), so having a camera and microphone will help you connect with instructors.
- For most courses, no advanced technology or additional software is needed.
- All online courses rely on **Zoom** for videos and other course materials.

[9. Time Commitment](#)

- You will spend about 20-30 hours each week watching lectures, reading course texts, studying for assignment, posting to discussion forums, or working on projects with your classmates.

[10. Add/Drop/Withdraw from Course](#)

- Online classes are bound by the same add/drop/withdraw from course deadlines as all Summer Session classes, which is clearly explained in the terms and conditions of the Programme Application Form.

[11. Sections & Discussion Part in Class](#)

- Sections and discussion time are your opportunity to apply what you learn from the lectures and reading and interact with your classmates to test your ideas.

- Some courses have discussion parts, and a few courses have synchronous discussion sections.
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12. [After Enrolling](#)

- **After enrolling in an online-only class:**

Start checking your **email**.

A few days before class begins, Course Support Officer will email instructions to your email account.

When you enroll in classes, you will not get an email from the faculty (nothing automatic or immediate). They will message you closer to when class begins. If you see that you're enrolled in your email, you can be confident that you are, in fact, in the class.

Courses are hosted on **ZOOM**. You do need to sign up for an account, login with your username and password, which will be guided online by the Course Support Officer.

13. [Time vs. Pace](#)

- One benefit of an online class is that you can often complete the online portions of the readings and discussions at any time of the day or night. Online classes do have **deadlines** for assignments, and occasionally exams are scheduled at times when students have more flexibility (e.g., early in the morning, late at night, or on weekends).

Course due dates are modeled on a typical summer session 2-week schedule:

Class Time: 16:00-19:00 and 20:00-22:00 Mon-Thu (China Standard Time)

Note: The video of the teaching will be recorded for your convenience. Therefore, you may leave the virtual classroom in the case of emergency. And the final assignments are due roughly end of the course.

Enrolled students will be expected to have access to a computer with a stable internet connection throughout the full session.

14. [Course Evaluations](#)

- Done completely online at the end of class. Evaluations come to your email.

Evaluations are extremely important: instructors, teaching assistants and Summer Session value your feedback and use it to make real change.

15. [Scholarship](#)

Applicants who have achieved good grades in the home institutes and have excellent performance during the programme will be offered a certain amount of scholarships after the programme ends.

Scholarships will be assessed based on the 50% of the grades in the home institutes and 50% of the performance during the programme. The average maximum scholarship is £1,200 (for 1-2 students); £500 (for 3-5 students); £100 (for 6-8 students).

16. [Background Information: Oxford University and Colleges](#)

The college system is a major traditional feature of Oxford and Cambridge. This Collegiate System is different from the colleges we usually understand. According to the divisions of the majors such as "School of Science", "Business School" and "Engineering School", the Oxford College is not divided by different subjects, but has a multi-community of multiple subjects and inclusive packages. The Oxford University's college is more like an independent small university, with higher autonomy, in charge of its own finances, managing students' food, clothing, housing and transportation, and cooperating

with the university's various subject teaching departments to manage student teaching. In addition to having a tutor in the department and a tutor at the college, the college provides an important place for both academic and social life.

In addition to the College, Oxford's teaching and research activities (especially the latter) are organised into 16 departments. The Faculty is not an autonomous unit within the university. Faculties are inter-academic institutions and are not affiliated with any college. However, the teachers and students of each department must first be a member of a college within Oxford. At the same time, the students of each college belong to different departments.

Oxford University does not have a tangible independent campus, but is scattered throughout the city and integrated with the city, so it is described as "a city in the university". This is due to historical reasons. Since the 11th century, scholars have spontaneously gathered here to carry out teaching research, and the University has gradually evolved with the expansion of scale, rather than in the process of unified planning and construction. Therefore, Oxford is also the only university in the world that has no anniversary of its founding, because the year and date of founding cannot be defined.

The organisational structure of Oxford University has two dimensions: one dimension is the academic level, divided into 59 Departments; the other dimension is the administrative level, divided into 38 Colleges. Each faculty member and student are associated with one Department and one College. This system, quite unique, is called the Collegiate System. Its biggest feature is the decentralisation of power. Each college is responsible for funding, teaching, and research. The university is only responsible for integrating the colleges. The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University also has duties such as attending University ceremonies and the organisation is very similar to the federal system of a state polity.

This system is common in large and comprehensive academic institutions, such as Cambridge University when it was first established.

17. [Background Information: About the Programme Designing](#)

The programme aims to use an Oxford interdisciplinary course to enable the participants broaden the international perspective of research, understand the future tendency of development, and provide new ideas and guidance for future research and work. Inter-disciplinarily is a feature of Oxford University. For example, big data research can be combined with various disciplines such as media, medical and health, geography, transportation, education, language city construction, etc. It is a new trend in future world development. Interdisciplinary interaction is an important foundation for innovation. The classification of future disciplines will be vague, and the university or major will be the future direction of higher education. The development of this programme is intended to inspire everyone's future academic or professional development.

In-depth experience of Oxford University's educational philosophy: Oxford's university education focuses on training students to search and digest information, to think independently, to build their own views and to defend them.

The Oxford University curriculum has a distinctive professional system and a diverse curriculum. The Oxford University curriculum has a distinctive subject system and a diverse range of subjects. Among subjects that Oxford University students study, some are single subjects, and some are interdisciplinary and comprehensive. Oxford has fully reflected the trend and towards multi-angle, multi-edge and resource sharing in the academic field of the information age in terms of subject setting and teaching and research.

The 20-hour specific subject course will be combined with the interdisciplinary lectures, enabling each participant to participate in interactive lectures and seminars with Oxford University experts and professors as well as local business and industry celebrities. It provides global and comparative perspectives for contemporary and future world development through case studies from all around the world to explore how to balance innovation and sustainable development in the world economy, environment and society.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email info@oxfordstudyabroad.org.uk.