



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PRE-ARRIVAL & ON THE LOCAL AREA - OXFORD

Here at Oxford Science Studies, we understand that it can be daunting, both for parents sending their children somewhere new, and for the student. Whether you already live within the UK or are travelling from abroad. We would like to reassure our parents, students, agents and guardians that we are on hand to assist with any queries, and to help you settle in for your time with us.

Below we have set out some useful information which may help you prepare for your trip to Oxford.

OXFORD

Oxford is a relatively small, compact city with a population of approximately 150,000. The city is home to the University of Oxford, boasts magnificent architecture and history, and is a lively place to be, especially during the holidays. Its sights include the Bodleian Library, Sheldonian Theatre and Radcliffe Camera, as well as the "Bridge of Sighs". The introduction of the Westgate Shopping Centre added to the collection of shops, restaurants and cafes available to visitors.

CURRENCY

The pound sterling, commonly known as the pound, is the official currency of the United Kingdom. The pound (£) is subdivided into 100 pence (singular: penny). Larger denominations of money are in the form of paper notes: £5, £10, £20 and £50. Smaller amounts of money are in the form of coins: £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p.

AIRPORTS AND EMBASSIES

The international airports that are closest to Oxford are London Heathrow (LHR) and London Gatwick (LGW). If required, all international embassies in the UK are in London. For information on how to reach our course locations from the above-mentioned airports, please visit our [Travel page](#).

WEATHER

The weather in the UK can vary from one day to the next. The winter months from November to February are cold with frequent frost and occasional snow. The average temperature is between 2°C and 7°C but often falls below 0°C. Winter is also when we receive the most rainfall. Students are advised to pack cold and wet-weather clothing including waterproof shoes/jacket. The summer months of June through August are pleasantly warm and a daytime temperature of 23°C is considered hot in the UK. For Easter and Summer Courses, please pack appropriate clothing for our Evening Entertainment Programme, as well as for moving between buildings – you could well get caught out by a rain shower.

GETTING TO YOUR COURSE WITH US

In the UK, drivers drive on the left-hand side of the road. For detail regarding how to get to our different course locations, please visit our [Travel page](#). Please be sure to check your course confirmation first, to ensure that any arrangements are made to the correct location.

ENTERTAINMENT

There are multiple sights to see and places to visit while in Oxford. The Ashmolean Museum is the University of Oxford's Museum of Art and Archaeology, founded in 1683. Collections at the Ashmolean include Egyptian mummies, contemporary art, Greek and Roman artefacts, plus much more. Alternatively, the Museum of Natural History holds a large collection of natural history specimens and architecture, with the collections including the world's first scientifically described dinosaur, and the only soft tissue remains of the extinct Dodo.

Oxford has multiple cinemas, with Phoenix Picturehouse based near Summertown, as well as both Odeon and Curzon located in the City Centre. If you are more inclined to see musicals, comedians, dance or live music, the New Theatre also in the City Centre has a variety of entertainment all year-round, as well as Oxford Playhouse also being in the town centre.

The Westgate Shopping Centre, mentioned above, is full of retail outlets, cafés, and restaurants for any shopping you may want to do. The earliest café opens at 8:00am, with many stores remaining open until late in the evening, although this varies from shop to shop. Feel free to get some food, visit an escape room, see a film, or browse around the various clothing stores included, if you have any free time (and are old enough to explore without our team!). The Oxford Covered Market located in the centre of Oxford hosts over 50 independent traders selling goods, as well as food and drink options. Dating back to being open in the 1770's, it is known for being one of the oldest continually operating markets in the UK.

The Oxford University Parks and Christ Church Meadows provide enjoyable walks with free entry, beautiful views of the river and a nice place for a picnic if the weather is kind. Occasionally tours and events occur for which you can purchase tickets to learn more about the local area.

Oxford is very popular for cyclists, if you wish to take advantage of this, there are plenty of bikes for hire. Speak with the office and they can point you in the right direction.

ENTERTAINMENT LOCATIONS

Please see a list below of entertainment locations in and around Oxford:

Ashmolean Museum

Opening Hours: 10:00am-5:00pm every day
Beaumont Street, Oxford
OX1 2PH

Museum of Natural History

Opening Hours: 10:00am-5:00pm every day
Parks Road, Oxford
OX1 3PW

Phoenix Picture Palace

57 Walton Street, Oxford
OX2 6AE

Odeon Cinema

George Street, Oxford
OX1 2BL

Curzon Cinema

Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford
OX1 1NZ

New Theatre

24-26 George Street, Oxford
OX1 2AG

Oxford Playhouse

11-12 Beaumont Street, Oxford
OX1 2LW

Westgate Shopping Centre

Opening Hours: From 8:00am
Queen Street, Oxford
OX1 1PE

Oxford Covered Market

Opening Hours: Monday to Wednesday 8:00am-5:30pm, Thursday to Saturday 8:00am-10:00pm, Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm
Market Street, Oxford
OX1 3DZ

Oxford University Parks

Opening Hours: 7:45am-4:00pm in Winter, 7:45am-9:00pm in Summer
South Parks Road, Oxford
OX1 3RF

Christ Church Meadows

Opening Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week
Christ Church, St Aldates, Oxford
OX1 1DP

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Christ Church Cathedral

St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DP

Central Oxford Mosque Society

Manzil Way, Oxford, OX4 1DJ

HOSPITALS AND PHARMACIES

In case of Emergency, there are local hospitals and pharmacies where students can receive any medical care required. Both the Summertown Health Centre and the John Radcliffe Hospital are local to the course locations, with opening times and addresses provided below. Additionally, there are local pharmacies if any medication is needed, with a Boots Pharmacy both in Summertown and in Oxford City Centre. If on course with us, please seek out one of our First Aiders for assistance.

Summertown Health Centre

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am-6:30pm
160 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford
OX2 7BS

John Radcliffe Hospital

Opening Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week
Headley Way, Headington, Oxford
OX3 9DU

Boots Pharmacy – Summertown

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm
221 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford
OX2 7HQ

Boots Pharmacy – Oxford City Centre

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:00am-8:00pm, Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm
8-10 Cornmarket Street, Oxford
OX1 3HL

St Aldates Police Station

Opening House: 8:00am-8:00pm, 7 days a week
St Aldates Police Station, Oxford OX1 1SZ

Emergency Services

For all medical, fire and police related emergencies, call 999

If you wish to have information on an alternative activity, amenities or religious venues, please speak to a member of the office staff.