



## 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.