

What to Expect

More Details and Helpful Hints about Attending Linacre College, Oxford University

Before you go

Schedule

The Oxford University academic term starts in early October each year. There are three terms: Michaelmas (Fall), Hilary (Spring), and Trinity (Summer). More information about these aspects is found here:

https://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/about_the_university/new_to_the_university/university_year?wssl=1.

Terms are 8 weeks long, and incredibly intense, with weekly assignments and in-depth classes. There are gaps of 6 to 8 weeks between terms, during which students are expected to catch up to readings and to work on research and preparation for assessed essays. Students complete their coursework in June, and are often examined on the entire year's learning then. While assessment varies from course to course, it is not uncommon for there to be no assessment at all until the end of the year, and to have one month during which major papers are submitted and examinations are written to assess the entire year's learning. In July and August, students work on their dissertation research and writing. Graduation ceremonies depend on degree and are held in September-November each year. Students are required to be in Oxford for the full 8 weeks of each academic term, and are expected to do considerable work between terms: it is advisable to allow an extra week in Oxford after the end of each term to ensure that you have adequate access to library resources for assessed degree work such as essays.

The academic calendar and expectations can be found at https://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/about_the_university/new_to_the_university/university_year?wssl=1.

We recommend that you review the one-year schedule including graduation dates.

Paperwork – Passports, Visas, etc.

The selected scholar must make her/his own arrangements for all required visas and transportation. US and Canadian citizens must have valid passports. It is not possible to enter the UK on a tribal passport: you must have a valid passport for the US or Canada.

United Kingdom (UK) visa guidelines state that students can apply from 3 months before the start of his/her course, and usually receive a decision on the visa within 3 weeks. The Visa process entails filling out a student visa form online (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>). Oxford University sends detailed information regarding the visa to students approximately three months in advance of the start of the program. It is very important to carefully follow the University instructions, particularly the financial information, in order to ensure the visa is

accepted and processed without any problems. Following the online form, selected scholars must make an appointment at a Biometric Processing Center to have their face and finger print scan. At the Biometric Processing Center, passports will be mailed to the British Embassy for visa approval and to acquire the Vignette Sticker. Visa processing times vary per country with an average of 5-10 days to process in the United States. Ensure you budget your time properly as visas cannot be processed in the UK. Visas can cost between \$400 and \$500 (USD and Canadian dollars). The processes to obtain passports and visas can be complicated and they can change. Airfares change frequently but are usually substantially lower farther in advance of departure.

Sites such as <http://www.educationuk.org/> and <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/tier4?wssl=1> can provide more details about student visa requirements. Oxford University will mail the Guide to Completing Tier 4 (General) Student Online Application Form to students. We recommend reviewing it earlier at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/tier4?wssl=1>.

US Department of State (state.gov) and Canadian (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/>) provide information about passports. Oxford University has information for international students at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/why-oxford/international-students?wssl=1>.

We recommend beginning all passport, visa and transportation arrangements at least 6 to 8 months in advance.

Budgeting

The scholarship is structured to cover the expenses of one person studying at Linacre College, Oxford University, for a one-year master's degree. The scholarship covers 100% of the university and college fees and approximately £14,296 (USD \$17,798 or Canadian \$23,888).

The Haury Program also provides supplemental transportation and visa application funds (see "Resources – Expenses") upon official acceptance.

Housing for single students usually costs about £500-600 per month. In University housing, utilities are included in rent. Please note that £300 deposit is required prior to arrival. This must be done via bank transfer directly to the College.

Living stipend payments are made monthly at the beginning of each month in the total of £1429.60 minus rent. Rent is automatically taken out of the monthly stipend and paid directly to the college. The remainder is deposited directly into the student bank account.

A UK bank account is required in order to receive the stipend, and students are responsible for setting up their own bank account. There are four major banks to choose from (Barclays, Lloyds, Santander, and HSCBC) which require you to have your passport Biometric Permanent Residence card and a stamped confirmation of registration from the College stating your permanent address. This letter can be obtained by logging into Student Self Service using Oxford Single Sign On (students will receive Single Sign On details upon registration with the College), and printing out the 'General Enrolment Certificate' in the library. Finally, students must go to the College Secretary for the stamp.

At the beginning of each month, students will receive a Battels invoice, which accounts for printing, food, and anything else purchased at the college. This invoice will be sent by email and can be paid through direct bank transfer or by check, cash or card at the Reception Office of Linacre college.

The University costs are taken care of directly by Linacre College. Students need not be considered about making these payments as they will already be taken care of.

Don't forget to budget for extracurricular activities such as membership in Societies and informal activities.

To budget living expenses, visit sites such as <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Oxford>, for information about the cost of living in Oxford. Current and former scholarship recipients may also provide this information. Those applying for the Scholarship are advised that Oxford is an expensive place to live, with relatively high costs for food, accommodation and other necessities; it is usual for students to supplement scholarships with personal savings.

Some of the tasks you'll need to think about are: setting up banking (deposits and withdrawals – be aware of any fees that may be involved), incidental costs you might incur, travel opportunities during the year, whether you will need additional funds from other sources, etc.

We recommend creating a budget for monthly expenses before you travel.

Contacts

The Haury Program suggests that those applying for the scholarship contact Linacre College, the specific degree program and previous Oxford-Haury scholars prior to and during the application and decision (if selected) phases. Choosing the degree to pursue is important with respect to interest, preparation and career plans. Again, we recommend that applicants contact representatives of the degree programs listed on the website at <http://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships/oxford-agnese-nelms-haury-scholarship>.

We recommend you talk/email with Linacre College representatives, degree program representatives and previous Oxford-Haury scholars throughout the application process and beyond.

Once You're There

Academics

Attending the University of Oxford is an amazing opportunity – this is one of the highest ranked universities in the world. The academic rigor requires exceptional preparation, dedication and attention from students. Students will find the requirements challenging and invigorating.

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For students attending Oxford from the US or Canada, the system is quite different. The support system for students is extensive, but the requirements can be daunting. The University has eight week terms during which students complete the quantity of work expected in twelve week terms in North America. Oxford has a “tutorial system,” which is structured differently in different programs and courses. For example, in the Social Anthropology program, students have an individual or small group tutorial weekly with the professor (not with a teaching assistant), who will engage you in a discussion about the key ideas for that week’s tutorial. Students in Anthropology degrees generally have a 2,000-word essay to submit every week, with 4-8 readings (books and/or articles) to cover for each essay in depth every week. Environmental Change and Management (ECM) program has multiple student group projects throughout the course, one 2,000 word elective per term, an approximately 4,000 word dissertation, two 1,000 word essays per elective per term, and 10-15 readings per week. All assessment is done for some degrees in one week at the end of the year, not across the year. It is a stressful albeit rewarding system that assumes students are able to devote most of their time - days, evenings and weekends - to their scholarship.

Students in all degrees are assigned to academic supervisors in their respective degrees, who will work with them on learning and bureaucratic matters pertaining to their degrees. Students are also assigned a college advisor, one of the Fellows at Linacre College, who will assist in a pastoral/advisory capacity should the student encounter any difficulties.

University Traditions

Some form of teaching was occurring at Oxford in 1096, so Oxford University has a long history of accomplishment. It also has traditions from methods to ceremonies and events to academic dress.

At the start of the academic year, students are required to attend the matriculation ceremony, which takes place at the beginning of the Michaelmas term. Students are required to wear sub fusc, which comprises black trousers or skirt, white shirt or blouse, black shoes, worn with a black gown, tie, and cap for matriculation, and during examinations as well as for graduation. No exceptions or additions to sub fusc are permitted: this is an Oxford tradition which joins students to the centuries of those who have come before them. Students must wear gowns for College formal dinners.

In addition to the academic benefit of studying at the University of Oxford, is the chance to learn about College, University and English traditions and share your traditions with colleagues. As recipients of the Oxford-Haury scholarship, students can be marvelous ambassadors and representatives across cultures and institutions – a great opportunity and responsibility!

Resources - Expenses

The Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice at the University of Arizona and Linacre College, Oxford University provide the resources for this scholarship. Linacre College administers the primary Oxford-Haury scholarship funding, and the Haury Program provides supplemental funding directly to the selected scholar for visa and travel expenses.

The primary scholarship funds are designed to cover the costs for academic requirements, room and board for one student. While the Haury Program encourages applicants who may wish to bring family with them, they are advised that expenses will increase substantially, most likely beyond the scholarship amount. Oxford University systems and the Oxford-Haury scholarship funds are not tailored for students with families. For example, family housing is far more expensive and childcare can be challenging to obtain and costly. Such students will need to plan for supplemental funds from other sources.

The Haury Program does supplement the primary scholarship funding with additional resources to cover the cost of transportation and visas for North American students. The Program provides a standard amount to the student at the time of official acceptance. This amount is intended to cover:

- student's flight from US/Canada to London at the start of the program,
- student's flight from London to US/Canada at the end of program, and
- student's visa application expenses for the standard visa process.

The housing deposit (for single student housing) of £300 should be budgeted out of your Linacre College stipend allocation. It is required prior to arrival. If the student wishes to attend the graduation ceremony and it is an extended period of time after completion of coursework, the Haury Program can cover the transportation costs to this event as well if needed.

Resources – Groups

As with other colleges and universities, Linacre College and Oxford University have student and other formal and informal groups, called 'Societies' that can be excellent resources for students. Some of the groups of interest are:

- Oxford-Haury Scholars
Previous scholars are happy to talk/email with current scholars to answer questions or discuss their experiences. Contact the Haury Program for more information.
- Societies
This is a very special year in a student's life, and it is important to take full advantage of the many special activities and interests that Oxford offers: do more than just study! There are hundreds of societies to choose from, depending on the interest of the person. There are many related to sports and outdoor activities, rowing for example. The Oxford Union is a famous lecture series.
- First Peoples Collective
A group of international students at Oxford, including members of Indigenous nations globally, who work to voice indigenous peoples' interests.

Resources – Academic Help

For students attending Oxford from the US or Canada, the system can be quite different. Students who are having academic difficulty can work with their program directors and can ask their College Advisor for assistance. There is Peer Support available from other graduate students at Linacre as well (see the College website). The University doesn't really offer any overarching academic tutoring services, but the program departments are generally quite helpful and can arrange for additional help as needed.

Resources – General

Living in a foreign country provides marvelous opportunities but also has challenges to be aware of such as: being away from family, friends and support systems for one full year; learning new procedures, customs, and traditions of the host country and institution; navigating the cross-cultural interrelationships; and excelling at academic expectations that are different from US/Canada. For students who have never lived away from their home territories or the support of their extended family for a long period before, it is useful to reflect on what coping strategies you will require to make the year enjoyable and productive, and to meet the challenges you will face.

Linacre College professors, students, staff and formal and informal groups and Haury Program staff are available to help and support Oxford-Haury students. This support goes beyond the funding of the scholarship to help navigating systems, discussing concerns and extending contacts.

Haury Program Expectations

The Haury Program requests email or other types of updates from the Oxford-Haury scholars that discuss progress in the program, adjustments to life at Linacre College and photos to share through social media. Key times for contact are around the time of arrival at Linacre College and quarterly if possible during the program. We certainly appreciate more frequent updating as your time allows. Updating the Haury Program can also give us the opportunity to assist if any issues arise.

Following formal conclusion of the scholarship, the Haury Program would like to remain in touch. We will contact scholars after graduation to hear about the experience, your future plans, and any input that can help us improve the experience for future scholars. As a graduate of the Oxford-Haury Scholarship program, past scholars can provide invaluable advice and an understanding of the program to interested applicants, other scholars and staff.

We welcome all Oxford-Haury Scholarship recipients into the growing Haury Program community network of researchers, scholars, and practitioners of social justice and environmental issues with opportunities for future project collaboration and professional growth!

Thanks to Laura Peers, Curator (Americas) and Professor of Museum Anthropology, Pitt Rivers Museum and School of Anthropology and Fellow, Linacre College; Jane Chanaa and Kaylena Bray, 2016 Oxford-Haury Scholar.