



Oxford
the course centre
location

Introductory information

English Language Summer School

Oxford course centre – St Hugh’s College

Centre address: MM Oxford Study Services
c/o St. Hugh’s College
St. Margaret’s Road
Oxford
OX2 6LE
England

Our course centre is in Oxford; known throughout the world as a beautiful university city, home to one of the most ancient and renowned centres of learning. Oxford University is comprised of more than 35 colleges, many of which were founded in the Middle Ages and almost all of which are situated close to the city centre. Situated in the heart of England, Oxford and our course centre is only an hour by train or coach from the centre of London and is well-connected with all major airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted).

We are privileged to use the facilities of an Oxford University College, St. Hugh’s College, for our course centre, although we have no formal connection with the University of Oxford. St. Hugh’s College was founded in 1886 by Elizabeth Wordsworth (great niece of the famous poet William Wordsworth).

We kindly request that our students respect the privilege of being able to study in an Oxford University College and behave with respect towards all the College staff, students and the buildings themselves, during their time attending our courses.

St. Hugh’s College is situated within easy walking distance (less than one mile) of the city centre. Most of the College buildings are arranged around the perimeter of the College site, which includes some six hectares (60,000 square metres) of tranquil, partially wooded gardens. It is one of the hidden delights of Oxford.

The College has a CCTV security system which is complemented by the College’s staff, who are on duty 24 hours a day. In addition, we have our own staff on duty, and in residence, amongst the students at a ratio of 1:12. The grounds, together with the security system and staffing levels, provide a very safe and secure environment for our junior students.

The Main Building (MB) includes the College Dining Hall, the Mordan Hall and some classrooms. The Mordan Hall is a versatile room which, as a lecture theatre, seats 200 and, as an activities centre, seats as many excited students as wish to attend. The Teachers’ Room and the majority of classrooms are in the Mary Gray Allen building (MGA). The Rachel Trickett building (RTB) is home to our Common/TV room, the computer room and all our offices. Accommodation is provided in all three of these buildings plus both the Wolfson building (WB) and Kenyon building (KB), which also houses a coin-operated launderette.

All students are accommodated in single rooms. The residential accommodation is of a high standard and the well-maintained rooms are cleaned Monday to Friday, and bathrooms seven days a week. Bed

linen is changed once a week, but students will need to provide their own towels.

As with the housekeeping, the College has its own professional catering service, which aims to ensure that an appetising and varied diet, prepared to a high standard, is served at all meals. There is a vegetarian option served at all mealtimes and it is sometimes possible to make provision for specific special diets if we are informed at the time of booking.

The sports facilities used by our students on sports afternoons are at the Oxford University Sports Centre, just a few minutes from the College by private coach, and at the St. Hugh’s/Keble College Sports Grounds: a fifteen minute walk from the College, as is the Ferry Centre Pool in Summertown, where students are able to swim if they wish.

An overview of the course – academic, social and cultural

On your first full day, you will get up around 07:30, have breakfast any time between 08:00 and 08:45 and be ready to meet the teaching staff in the leisure room at 09:00 in order to take your placement test.

Following your placement test, you will have a break with soft drinks and biscuits and then attend a general briefing meeting. This is where you will have all aspects of the course explained to you, including what we expect from you and all the details of the social and cultural activities which have been organised and in which you can take part.

There may then be some free time before lunch, after which you will meet at 14:15 to be taken on a familiarisation walking tour of Oxford. You will return to college by 18:00 for dinner at 18:30 and the first international disco at 20:00. If you prefer something quieter, you may like to watch the film which will be showing in the Mordan Hall.

Tuition

The course syllabus offers English language tuition from Elementary to Advanced level and so do not cater for Beginners. It is designed to improve both oral and written skills, enabling you to understand English easily and to give you the ability to speak fluently and with confidence.

Our teaching team is led by our Academic Director and all teachers are selected for their qualifications, expertise and ability to relate to students.

The academic programme commences on the Monday following Sunday arrival and finishes on the Friday before Saturday departure. All students take a placement test on the first day of the course to assess their knowledge of English to ensure that they are placed in the most suitable teaching group.

Classes are compulsory and are formed mainly on the results of these tests, although classes are kept as multinational as possible.

The maximum size of any class is 13 students. This small class size enables students to enjoy full participation in the lesson and a high level of individual attention from the teacher.

Our academic programme includes:

- 22 periods of tuition (18 hours) - five mornings and one afternoon per week – maximum class size 13 students
- Student-centred and communicative lessons with a special focus on the development of speaking skills.
- Provision of homework
- Assistance with homework, provided each evening by residential teaching staff
- Course books, provided during the stay, to be returned before departure
- An end of course Certificate of Attendance.

Class attendance is mandatory. No absence from class is permitted, unless due to illness.

Your progress will be reviewed weekly and if you make good progress you will be encouraged to move to a higher-level group so that lessons continue to be challenging.

Social activities programme

We make every effort to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to extend their knowledge and experience of the British way of life by means of supervised activities in their free time.

All programmed activities are included within the course fees; this also includes entrance fees where applicable.

Our varied activities and excursions programme is designed to give students maximum enjoyment as

well as the opportunity to meet students of other nationalities.

There is an extensive programme for each course, arranged and carried out with the assistance of full time social organisers and the teachers.

The programme aims to provide entertainment, fun and friendship.

Afternoon activities and Sports

Examples of activities arranged during the week include sports afternoons, conducted tours of other University of Oxford colleges, museums and local places of interest, such as Carfax Tower, The University Church and the Botanical Gardens.

The sports facilities used by our students on sports afternoons are at the Oxford University Sports Centre and the St. Hugh's/Keble College Sports Grounds. We take the students by private coach to the Oxford University Sports Grounds which are a short drive away. The St. Hugh's/Keble College Sports Ground and the swimming pool at the Ferry Centre are all just 15 minutes walk from the centre. Sports available include basketball, volleyball, squash, tennis, football, and badminton with introductions to typically English sports.

The frequent evening activities include karaoke, team trivia quiz nights, bingo, films, discos, workshops: drumming, arts and crafts, drama/drama force, samba drumming and dance carnivals and "learn how to" salsa evenings.

Most activities and sports competitions have prizes, cups and trophies available not only for the best performances but also for students who contribute to the success of the activity.

Excursions

Every Saturday and Sunday we organise full day excursions which are aimed to be educational and enjoyable. Whilst they are designed to enrich our students' knowledge of British history and culture, we realise that there needs to be time for simply having fun and of course, shopping.

Excursion destinations include places such as: London, Cambridge, Hampton Court Palace (with a stop in Windsor), a theme park and Warwick Castle (with a stop in Stratford-upon-Avon). Students will be accompanied by teachers on all excursions. These excursions are all included within the course fees for all students.

You should always look at the notice boards for the latest information on all published activities as well as for information regarding any additional activities which may have been arranged.

Students who are attending the course independent of an agent or group will be assigned one of our own staff as a group leader, who will arrange meetings with them and make sure they are aware of all the available activities and events throughout the course. Should any of these students encounter any difficulties or have any problems, they should let their assigned leader know as soon as possible so that their problems can be solved.

An overview of lesson content

This is a guide to the areas of language input and practice that should be covered in the different classes.

Please remember that this is only a guide and that, to ensure the delivery of a suitably balanced course, the most important consideration will be the needs of the students in each particular class.

Teachers will try to use audio material in at least one of the morning lessons each day, preferably sometime during the first three lessons so that the last lesson has as much speaking output by the students as possible.

All teaching is carried out by a team of three teachers so that every student will be taught by three teachers each day.

07:30 WAKE UP
08:00 – 08:50 BREAKFAST
09:00 – 10:30 TUITION PERIODS 1 & 2 - TEACHER A

In these two periods teachers will focus on consolidation and development of structures and functions. A course book may be used daily in these two periods, but teachers will try to avoid book-only lessons. The four skills, grammar practice and vocabulary work may all be included – teachers will respond to the needs of the class. Grammar work should be student-centred and communicative. Homework is set and may be writing, dictionary work, exercises or preparation for the following day.

10:30 – 11:00 MID-MORNING BREAK
11:00 – 11:55 TUITION PERIOD 3 - TEACHER B

In these periods teachers will focus on listening, writing and reading skills, with the main objectives of developing extensive or intensive listening and reading skills and awareness and production of various text types. Teachers will also aim to develop vocabulary as well as awareness of life in the UK, Ireland and other English speaking countries. The lesson should be as communicative as possible, and should therefore include a significant amount of student centred oral interaction within the above guidelines.

12:00 – 12:55 TUITION PERIOD 4 - TEACHER C

In this period teachers will focus on development of speaking skills, using material suitable to the level of the class. Possible frameworks for oral development may include: British culture, work on MMOSS excursions destinations, projects, discussion, drama, communication games, role-play, simulation, pronunciation games, etc.

13:00 LUNCH
14:15 AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**
Wednesday only:
14:15 – 15:35 TUITION PERIODS 5 & 6

Periods 5 and 6 consist of project-based and culture-based lessons and development of communicative ability (principally speaking, listening and vocabulary extension). This can include drama, language work based on the social programme or extended tasks.

18:30 – 19:30 DINNER
20:00 EVENING ACTIVITIES**
22:00 HOT CHOCOLATE AND BISCUITS
22:30 BEDTIME

** For details of all programmed activities please see the copy of the social and cultural activities programme which will have been included with this booklet.

