Oxford School of English



ADULT COURSE GUIDE 2027/28

High-quality English language courses in the heart of Oxford



Your journey in English starts here!

"My professors were so kind and put so much effort into our lessons that it pushed me to work harder to improve my English – and it improved a lot! The school staff were just great, and I had such a joyful time studying among the multicultural student community.
A truly great experience!"

Motahareh from France

35,000 OSE graduates

Thousands of students have completed programmes at OSE since the school was founded over two decades ago.

Every week up to 50 new students join our English language, academic and exam courses. They hail from all over the world – Europe, the Far East, the Middle East, Africa, South America. There are happy OSE graduates on every continent and we've helped students from Vietnam to Venezuela, from Germany to Ghana.

Every year, some 1,000 additional students join our year-round Junior School and our Junior Summer School in July and August. Our Junior Schools have a separate brochure and website.

100%

of OSE students **achieve** their desired **IELTS score***

98%

High pass rate in Cambridge exams!*

Scan this QR code for the OSE website homepage, and go to **Who we are** for more information

*at time of printing; OSE's 6-year average pass rate in the Cambridge CPE exam is 98%

"I had a really fantastic time at OSE – they were the happiest days of my life! I experienced so much and met so many lovely people. No-one could ever be disappointed with OSE!"

Taehyo from South Korea

OSE - an outstanding School



First-rate academic quality

Our teaching faculty is second to none: our long-established, experienced team of teachers and academic managers are among the best-qualified in their field. All of our staff are fully TEFL-qualified and many of our teachers also have post-graduate diplomas in teaching English in addition to teachers with doctorates from Oxford and Harvard universities.

All of the college's courses are continually reviewed and updated to ensure that the syllabi are modern and relevant to today's international topics. In class we use the most recent editions of textbooks by leading British academic publishers, supplemented by our huge library of additional teaching material.

The OSE tutorial system

All long-term students are continually monitored and guided by their tutors, with whom they have a mandatory one-to-one meeting every two weeks, to assess the student's achievements and set individual learning targets. There are also fortnightly progress tests for all students in our standard courses. Please see **Academic Information** on page 19 for more information.

International mix

Each year, OSE has students from some 75 different countries worldwide. Our students are from a fantastic mix of different cultures with different lifestyles and different backgrounds – but all working together, sharing their ideas and time, and making new lifelong international friends.

Many of our alumni are still in contact with the friends they made here 2 decades ago, and in many cases visit each other in their home countries. And the language in which they communicate? English, of course!



OSE has students from some 75 different countries worldwide



OSE in the heart of beautiful Oxford

Wonderful college building

Our recently-refurbished college building interior is purpose-designed for the modern age, but with the atmosphere of an old English hotel – in a word, unique. From the luxurious leather sofas, mahogany-framed mirrors and potted palms in the student lounge to the modern classrooms with state-of-the-art interactive whiteboard technology, the emphasis is on both learning and comfort combined.

There is even a piano among the comforts of the student lounge (near the table-football table and the ever-popular chess board) students who can play are encouraged to do so, at break times. It's delightful to hear piano music as you sip your coffee and chat with friends.

Many students take advantage of our borrowing library with books specially selected by our teachers for each student level or use our classrooms to study more outside of class-time to maximise their learning potential, taking advantage of our internet connection which is the fastest possible (fibre-optic, on our own exclusive line).

City centre location

OSE is in the very centre of the city, between the historic Gloucester Green and the famous Martyr's Memorial. Everything in the city centre – sandwich bars, cafes, shops, the university colleges, museums, the coach station, even all the bus stops (all bus services from the suburbs and to other parts of the UK terminate and start in the city centre) –



"I love Oxford because it's very safe, very beautiful and the people are very kind and helpful. My host family is fantastic and my host mother is really my mother in England! I will miss Oxford very, very much!"

Aya from Japan

The OSE global student mix

Every year, students from some 75 different countries take English language and exam courses in our college – some for a year or longer, some for a few months, some for only a few weeks, and some for even just a few days. Everyone is welcome, no matter how long they can study.

Our students are from a fantastic mix of different cultures with different lifestyles and different backgrounds – but all working together, sharing their ideas and time, and making new lifelong international friends. It's a wonderful atmosphere!



16 – 18 years old

Our minimum age is 16, and in the summer especially many students aged 16 – 18 join our courses. All our staff – teachers, management and administration – are trained in safeguarding, and our homestay families are all closely vetted, to ensure the safest possible environment at all times for our younger students.

19 – 24 years old

Most of our students are 19-24 years of age, and many of these are current undergraduates at university in their home country, or recent graduates aiming to improve their English for work. Some of our European students are already working in Oxford.

25 – 50 years old

We also offer courses to more mature students – those who need to improve their English for work, for international travel, or simply for fun. The close, inclusive nature of the college and our students mean that older students always feel welcome and always blend in perfectly.

50+ years old

We frequently have students of this more senior age group and they, too, always feel welcome and blend in perfectly. We have taught English to many students in their 60s, three in their 70s, while our oldest-ever student was 80. It really is never too late!

Scan this QR code for the OSE website homepage, and see our current nationalities displayed



"I had the most incredible month of my life in this lovely city: the college and the teachers are so welcoming, I made friends from all over the world, and I will never forget the Pub Nights! It was a unique experience, and a memory for a lifetime. I really love this place!"

Victoria from Brazil

Add Oxford to your resumé!

Oxford is one of the world's most beautiful cities

The medieval city centre's many ancient, narrow streets that thread their way among the university colleges are some of the most picturesque in the world. The broader main streets are also lined with old buildings – including, of course, grand university colleges – and are truly exquisite.

There is a huge number of things to see in Oxford. Many of the old university buildings are open to the public (including Christ Church, New College and the Bodleian Library, which all portrayed Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films); the city's six museums include world-famous Ashmolean Museum and the Oxford University Natural History Museum; while visitors can climb the towers at Carfax and St Mary's Church and look down into the college gardens and the High Street – which itself runs to the long, graceful Magdalen Bridge over the River Cherwell, and the 400-year-old Botanic Garden beside it.



Student life

Oxford has two universities (the famous old university, plus the more modern Oxford Brookes University) and many other colleges, with a student population of around 45,000. As a result, the city brims over with thousands of things to appeal to young people – countless student cafes, restaurants, sandwich bars, tea rooms, coffee houses, sports clubs, an ice skating rink, bars, pubs, nightclubs, plus five cinemas, eight theatres, six museums, and even six public swimming pools!

The city centre is also crammed with shops of all kinds. Oxford may be famous for academic study, but at weekends especially the streets are full of people and shopping is the most popular occupation!

Whatever you like to do in your free time, you can almost certainly find it here in Oxford.





"A great school located in the heart of Oxford – I'll never forget this time. The teachers treated me like a friend and it was the perfect environment to make friends from all over the world. Oxford is a place I can highly recommend both to study and to have fun".

Giano from Italy

Clean, safe and easy layout

Oxford is a surprisingly small city (population 160,000) and you can walk from one side of the city centre to the other in only 20 minutes. It's easy to find your way around, and is clean and safe - in the Complete University Guide survey, Oxford is consistently one of the safest university cities in the UK.

The bus service is excellent, with buses running to and from the city centre to the suburbs every few minutes. There are lots of taxis too.

Close to London

Oxford is close to London, and coaches run to and from London every few minutes during the day. It's inexpensive and the coaches run throughout the night too (although at night they're less frequent).

Oxford train station is a little further from the city centre (the coach station is in the centre), but the London trains are quicker than the coaches, although they're usually more expensive.

It's so easy to get to London that our students often go there in the afternoon, returning in the evening.

Close to Heathrow Airport

Oxford is only 45 minutes by car from London Heathrow Airport. After your flight – especially if it's a long one – it's always good to know that you have only a short journey to your accommodation in Oxford.



1 hour from London by train

Journey information from OSE to:

7 minutes	Carfax Tower
2 mins	Bus & Coach Station
5 minutes	Ashmolean Museum
6 minutes	Bodleian Library
10 minutes	Christ Church
5 minutes	St. John's College
10mins	Oxford Train Station
15 minutes	Botanic Garden
45 minutes	London Heathrow Airport
1 hr 40mins	London Gatwick Airport
1 hour	London by Train
1 hr 40 mins	London by Coach





Oxford School of English (OSE), 14 Friars Entry, Oxford OX1 2BZ

"I've been studying in OSE for 8 months and I really love it here - my teachers are fantastic, brilliant at engaging and motivating the students in the class. The college is in the heart of the city and is so easy to get to - it takes me only 5 minutes by bus, I plan to take the IELTS course next".

Enrico from Italy

The OSE courses

Courses and teaching Faculty

Our teaching faculty is second to none: our long-established, experienced team of teachers and academic managers are among the best-qualified in their field. All of our staff are fully TEFL-qualified and many of our teachers also have post-graduate diplomas in teaching English in addition to teachers with doctorates from Oxford and Harvard universities.

These dedicated faculty members continually review and update our courses to ensure that the syllabi are modern and relevant to today's international topics. In class we use the most recent editions of textbooks by leading British academic publishers, supplemented by our huge library of additional teaching material (much of it generated in-house).

Our teaching department includes staff with doctorates from Oxford and Harvard universities





General English

Our first-class General English courses are designed to drive students forward in their learning, and to make a substantial improvement in as short a time as possible. With 8 different levels – from Beginner to Proficiency – we can accept all students, and they can stay as long as they need to reach the level they want.

The General English courses are 15 hrs or 20 hrs per week*

Intensive English

The Intensive English course is for students who need to make extra-rapid progress in all aspects of their English, and involves study in both mornings and afternoons.

The Intensive English course is 30 hours per week*



Our Cambridge FCE, CAE & CPE exam results are among the best in the world.

"The best thing about OSE is the free and warm atmosphere – it's really wonderful. The teachers and staff are very friendly, always available to help, and quickly become your good friend. And students are from so many different countries – I made many friends among them too, from all over the world. I highly recommend OSE!".

Park from South Korea

IELTS

Our 4-week intensive IELTS course provides full and thorough preparation for the IELTS exam. With a strong exam focus, our teachers guide students through the four different parts, familiarising them with IELTS exam techniques and requirements, so that students know exactly what to expect and are confident of their own abilities when they sit down to start the exam.

Each course ends on a Friday and in most cases, the IELTS exam is held the following day (Saturday).

Cambridge examinations (KET, PET, FCE, CAE & CPE)

We have been running Cambridge exam courses for 20 years, and we have not only some of the most experienced Cambridge exam teachers you could find, but also some of the best exam results in the world.

Academic Year programmes

In our Academic Year programmes, students significantly improve both their English level and study skills – with a clear focus on acceptance into a UK university. Students not only progress to a much higher level in English, but also prepare for the exams they need to apply for a university course.

The six different programmes are open to students age 16+.

Business English for Executives

The aim of this course is to give a substantial boost to busy business executives, improving in a short time their understanding and use of English in international business and enabling them to perform at a higher level and with greater confidence.

Our Business English courses are dynamic and short, to enable businesspeople to squeeze them into their busy working lives – from 1 week to 4 weeks, although longer courses are also possible on request.

Professional English

Medicine, nursing, law, engineering, the travel industry and more – over the years we have supplied specialist English language courses for people from all walks of life. Here in Oxford we can draw on a huge supply of top-class teachers with skills in every area, and we can match the English needs of almost any student, whatever their profession!

One-to-one tutorials

One-to-one lessons can usually be arranged to suit the needs of the student. These can be an excellent way of boosting a student's understanding in short, intensive bursts, but can also be structured to give wider support over a longer period to students with specialist requirements.

Bespoke courses

Diplomats, government officials, teachers, retirees, news presenters, musicians – all have followed bespoke courses in our school. In Oxford, we can provide almost any course our students want – all you need to do is ask!

Teacher Refresher courses

Our 2-week teacher refresher courses are for overseas teachers of English who would like to update their knowledge of methodology and teaching materials, and to broaden their linguistic and cultural awareness.

This course is aimed at non-native speakers who have experience of teaching English and hold a teaching qualification from their own country.

***Academic hours: each academic hour = 50 minutes class time.**



We have regular classes for FCE, CAE and CPE. Courses for KET and PET are available upon request.

Medicine, law, engineering, aviation and more – Professional English courses to fit your need.



The OSE tutorial system ensures that all long-term students develop to their full potential

Academic information

The OSE tutorial system

The OSE tutorial system ensures that all long-term students develop close ties with their teachers and attend one-to-one meetings with an assigned tutor every two weeks, in which the student's achievements are assessed and individual learning targets discussed and reviewed.

There are also fortnightly progress tests for all students in our standard courses, enabling teachers to monitor more closely learning and to guide and support each student more effectively.

Continuous enrolment

Students can join any non-examination course on any Monday, and can study as long as they wish. Our courses are structured so that new students slot in seamlessly, immediately taking their places in the class and participating in class activities with their new classmates.

We always recommend as long a course as possible to make the greatest possible improvement, but some students study for as little as one week. It simply depends on the student and their availability.

Specific start and finish dates apply for our exam courses.

Please note that students at Beginner level are accepted on specific dates only.

Class sizes

Our General English and Intensive English classes are small, with an average of 11 students. In the lower and higher levels, there are often only 6 – 8 students per class. The IELTS class has a maximum of 8 students.

Class levels

We have General English and Intensive English courses at 8 different levels:

A0 (Beginner)
A1 (Elementary)
A2 (Pre-Intermediate)
B1 (Intermediate)
B2 (Upper Intermediate)
B2E (Upper Intermediate exam)
C1 (Advanced)
C2 (Proficiency)

All new students are required to complete our online placement test or are tested on their first morning in the school, to determine their level. Students can move up to the next level either upon successful completion of an academic term, or at other times if our academic staff consider them to be ready.

Scan this QR code for the OSE website homepage, and go to **Courses** for more information

Student Life

The OSE social diary

The opportunities for fun and adventure in and around Oxford are endless. Although the city has a reputation as an academic centre, its student population of 45,000 ensures that the city is also a fantastic place for entertainment of all kinds. Whatever you want, you're sure to find it in Oxford!

The school's social diary features lots of events, but students can easily follow their own inclinations and interests and do other things with their friends, independently.

Full-day excursions

We offer day trips by coach to several destinations, including London, Brighton, Bath and Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, "the Other Place" (the Oxford name for Cambridge), and Windsor.

Pub Night

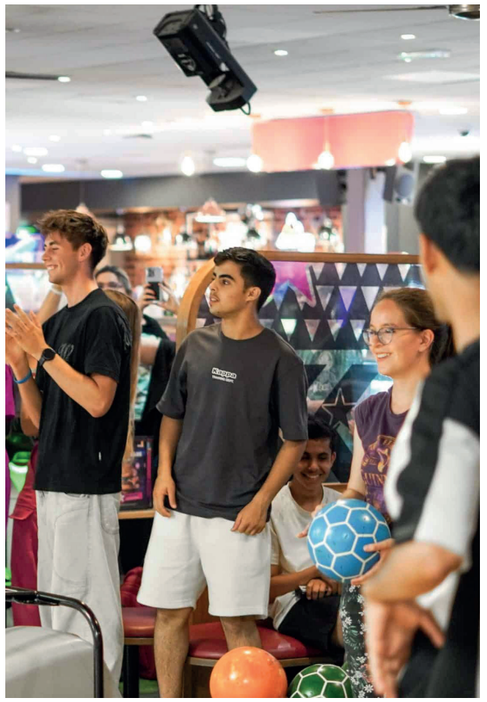
Our most popular social event takes place every Thursday night, when a great crowd of our students and teachers visit an Oxford pub (we choose a different pub each week). Our record of 130 people was set in the summer; usually there are 40 to 50 of us. Everyone looks forward to Pub Night – it's not only great fun, but also an opportunity for students to make new friends and to practise their English.

International Dinners, Film Night, quizzes and more

Our evening social events also include International Dinners, when we seat up to 50 students and teachers at a huge dinner with food and drink from different countries; Film Night, when we show classic and modern films on our projector screen and tuck into pizza and popcorn; quizzes, karaoke and other music events (singing traditional Christmas carols in December, for instance). These events all take place in the school.



The opportunities for fun and adventure in and around Oxford are endless





Sport

With a student population of 45,000, Oxford has some of the greatest sporting opportunities of any city in the world. In the city centre there is an ice skating rink (open all year), and boats and punts for hire on the two rivers. There are six swimming pools, public tennis courts, and large parks for football (when we have enough students interested, we also arrange our own football matches). Of course, Oxford has its own football team – Oxford United; it may not be as famous as Manchester United, but tickets are a lot cheaper!

And there is a huge range of other sports available, including archery, athletics, basketball, hockey, horse riding, martial arts, rugby and yoga. Just ask us for help if you need it.

Shopping

Oxford has some great shopping – the world-famous Blackwell's and Waterstone's bookshops, major department stores, shops for fashion, sports clothing, gifts, the Alice in Wonderland shop, the Gloucester Green market, and many more. For those who really do love fashion, the huge Bicester Village designer outlet is only 30 minutes by bus!

Sightseeing

Oxford is an amazing city to explore and photograph, with 38 university colleges, the iconic Radcliffe Camera, the Bodleian Library, the Ashmolean Museum, the Botanic Garden, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Natural History Museum, the History of Science Museum, Christ Church Cathedral, Hertford Bridge (Oxford's Bridge of Sighs) and many, many more.

Theatres, cinemas, live music

There are eight theatres in Oxford, plus additional open-air theatres in the summer; five cinemas (three of them are multi-screen); and countless live music venues, including the Holywell Music Room (the oldest custom-built concert hall in Europe, dating from 1748), and at the other end of the scale, the O2 Academy, for modern music.

Visiting London

London is close to Oxford, and two different companies run coaches to and from the capital, with coaches leaving and returning during the day every 8-10 minutes. There are also frequent trains from Oxford train station. It's so easy (and cheap) to visit London that students often go after lessons, in the afternoon. The coaches run throughout the night, so you can come back whenever you like.





Your Home Away from Home: Living with a Local Host Family

Accommodation

Accommodation

We have accommodation types to suit all preferences and pockets.

300 homestay families

Homestay is our most popular accommodation option. Living with Oxford residents is a great way to learn more about the UK and British culture, and enables you to practise your English in a typical British home.

Breakfast and evening meals are provided (lunch at weekends, too); your laundry is done for you (although you can usually do it yourself, if you prefer); and you have a warm, safe home to come back to after an exhausting day in school and an evening out with your friends!

We have around 300 homestay families, enabling us to choose the right homestay for you. We have fantastic feedback from students about our homestay service, but in any case our Accommodation Manager is based in the school reception area, so if at any time you have any questions or problems, you can speak to her and we will act immediately to help.

Stylish townhouse apartments

Our 2-bedroom townhouse apartments are spacious, stylish and extremely comfortable.

- 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one en suite)
- double beds
- very large kitchen, dining and sitting room
- free WiFi

The townhouse apartments are only 10 – 15 minutes to the city centre by bus, and the bus stop is directly outside. During the day there is a bus every 4 or 5 minutes. Bus stops for London and Heathrow Airport are also just a few minutes' walk.

Scan this QR code for the OSE website homepage, and go to **Townhouse apartments** for more information.











Teaching Faculty

Our teaching staff make up a long-established team of exceptionally well-qualified and experienced professionals, dedicated to their particular field and immensely popular among our students. All the senior staff hold higher degrees and/or the Cambridge DELTA or Trinity Dip.TESOL, and most of them have worked in our college for more than ten years, some for almost twenty.

Passionate about their subject, our teaching staff carry their enthusiasm into every aspect of their teaching and make every effort to ensure that each student rises to the challenge and achieves their full potential.

Our faculty members include:

Joe, Director of Studies – Coming from a family of language teachers, our Director of Studies Joe has been at the school since 2012, first as a teacher and then later taking a management role. He studied History at Queen Mary London and holds a post-graduate diploma in English Language Teaching from Trinity College London. He's worn many hats a teacher, activity leader, course designer and academic director and is deeply committed to maintaining the school's high pedagogical standards and helping students achieve their educational and personal goals.

Bernadette, Senior Teacher – holds a BA (Bryn Mawr) and Ph.D. (Harvard) in Russian and Slavonic Languages and has taught at the universities of Harvard and Oxford. She is fluent in several languages and is the author of several published papers on language and linguistics. Bernadette has been at OSE since 2001.

Iain, Senior Teacher – holds an M.A. in Ancient Greek (the University of Edinburgh) and the Cambridge DELTA. Iain has taught in Greece. He designed and manages our highly successful 4-week IELTS programme, and has worked at OSE since 2006.

Tim, Teacher – DELTA-qualified, Tim has taught in China and Italy. His extensive knowledge of Oxford and its history make him the school's leading source of information about our wonderful city – fascinating for many of our students. Tim joined Oxford School of English in 2008.

Oxford School of English



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