



Hertford College
OXFORD



National Taiwan University

At Hertford College, Oxford

Four Week Advanced English and British Culture Programme

SUMMER 2025



An Introduction to Hertford College

Summer 2025

Hertford College was founded in 1282 – it is one of the oldest of Oxford University's 39 colleges. Located in the centre of historic Oxford, our beautiful college boasts the Bridge of Sighs, an iconic landmark of the city.

Hertford College is an ideal setting for students wishing to challenge themselves academically and deepen their knowledge of Britain and British culture.

What to expect from our academic programme?

- You will study in the unique atmosphere of Oxford
- You will be encouraged to discuss ideas and gain new perspectives
- You will develop valuable academic and communication skills

Welcome to Oxford!





Pre-programme task: Aspects of Oxford

This is an opportunity for you to research and present on a cultural, historical, economic, political or social aspect of Oxford's rich heritage to your peers at the start of the programme. It is an enriching experience for everyone involved as it allows the teaching team to find out more about your interests, and for you to find out more about Oxford as soon as you arrive.

Please choose one of the following topic areas and come prepared to offer a 5-minute presentation on your research. If you choose history, for example, you may like to look at a specific period or event in Oxford's history. These topic headings are guidelines only and we welcome presentations on any other aspects of Oxford that you find interesting and would like to share with your peers.

Students work individually on this task and we ask you to bring any power points on a USB stick, as external equipment is not always compatible with our IT provisions.

Here are some possible topic areas:

- Music: classical/contemporary/Oxford bands etc.
- Culture: the arts/literature
- History, including Economic History: e.g. the Rover/BMW plant in Cowley and migration
- The university and the collegiate system
- Geography
- Architecture
- Events: e.g. Mayday, Oxford-Cambridge Boat race, Bonfire Night etc.
- Traditions and Folklore
- Oxford alumni
- Academic research
- Social history

Enjoy your research! We look forward to meeting you this summer.



<p>DAY 1</p> <p>Saturday 5th July</p>	<p>ARRIVAL DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive at a London airport • Hertford College Residential Advisors (RAs) will meet you • Travel to Oxford by private coach. You will stay in Oxford University accommodation • On arrival: meal, and welcome information 		
<p>Day 2</p> <p>Sunday 6th July</p>	<p>BREAKFAST (Sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Weekend</p> <p>At the weekend you have free time. If you wish to stay in Oxford, there are various activities you can do, such as punting, walking tours, shopping, college, and museum visits. Alternatively, some students choose to travel independently to nearby places of interest such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London • Cambridge • Bath The Cotswolds • Blenheim Palace • Stonehenge <p>These trips are not included in the programme price. Your RAs are available to offer advice and support about travel arrangements. Breakfast is served in the morning, but you must sign up with RAs in advance.</p>	<p>DINNER (Sign up in advance)</p>

WEEK ONE

DAY 3		08:30– 10:00		10:30-12:00		13:30-15:30		EVENING
Monday 7 th July		Language Assessment Students complete a placement test.	TEA BREAK	Architecture in Oxford Learn about the city through some of Oxford’s most famous and beautiful buildings.	LUNCH	Tour of Discovery A self-guided exploration of the hidden corners of Oxford to help you become familiar with this historic city.	DINNER	Cultural Activities with RAs
Tuesday 8 th July		Introduction to London Learn about the history and cultural highlights of the capital city. You will also have the opportunity to study some of the treasures in the British Museum and National Gallery in preparation for Friday’s visit.	TEA BREAK	Introduction to Oxford University and the Tutorial System Explore the development of the leading university in the English-speaking world. You will have the chance to ask questions about the admissions process to Oxford and other British universities.	LUNCH	Welcome Tea at 3:15 Sample a delicious and traditional cream tea in the splendid surroundings of one of Hertford College’s historic dining halls. This is a special and formal event, so we encourage students to dress up.	DINNER	Cultural Activities with RAs

<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Wednesday 9th July</p>	<p>Aspects of Oxford Presentations by students based on the pre-course task. Each mini presentation will be followed by a Q and A session.</p>	<p>TEA BREAK</p>	<p>Aspects of Oxford Presentations by students based on the pre-course task. Each mini presentation will be followed by a Q and A session.</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	<p>Presentations Workshop 1 Introduction to student presentations. How to plan and deliver a presentation effectively.</p>	<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural Activities with RAs</p>
<p>Day 6</p> <p>Thursday 10th July</p>	<p>The Museums of Oxford: Lecture and Visit Discover the rich cultural and historical treasures housed in Oxford's world-renowned museums such as the Ashmolean, the Pitt Rivers, the Museum of Natural History, Weston Library and the Science Museum, exploring their unique collections and the stories they tell. After an introductory lecture, you will explore one of the museums and complete a written assignment.</p>		<p>LUNCH</p>	<p>The British Film Industry Explore Britain's rich cinematic history from the earliest silent movies and newsreels to the magic of the Harry Potter films.</p>	<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural Activities with RAs</p>	
<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Friday 11th July</p>	<p>Study Tour – London Enjoy a trip to the capital city and experience all the magical sights and sounds of London in the comfort and safety of your private coach. You will visit the National Gallery. You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs.</p>						

DAY 8 Saturday 12 th July	BREAKFAST (Sign up in advance)	Weekend Free time (as explained on day 2). Breakfast is served on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.	
Day 9 Sunday 13 th July	BREAKFAST (Please sign up in advance)	Weekend Free time (as explained on day 2). Breakfast is served on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.	DINNER (Please sign up in advance)

WEEK TWO

DAY 10	08:30-10:00		10:30-12:00		13:30-15:30		EVENING
<p>Monday 14th July</p>	<p>Academic writing workshop 1 Working on a text as a group is the best way to develop your writing skills. •Identifying key points in the title and answering the question effectively •Organising your ideas</p>	TEA BREAK	<p>Job Seeking Skills Workshop 1 Learn the importance of an effective letter of application or personal statement and how to write a proficient CV. Discover the best ways to research a prospective employer.</p>	LUNCH	<p>Food and Drink in the UK Learn about local and regional specialities and the history behind some of our famous dishes.</p>	DINNER	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>
<p>DAY 11 Tuesday 15th July</p>	<p>Leadership A series of activities and discussions which explore current leadership theory.</p>	TEA BREAK	<p>Entrepreneurship Learn how innovative thinkers have followed their dreams and realised them in the global market.</p>	LUNCH	<p>History of the English Language Learn about the development of English, from the language spoken by the first invaders to the different versions existing around the world today.</p>	DINNER	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>

DAY 12 Wednesday 16 th July	08:30-10:00	TEA BREAK	10:30-12:00	LUNCH	13:30-15:30	DINNER	EVENING
	The History of Britain A timeline of the key periods and developments in British history from Stonehenge to the present day.		Folklore and Tradition Discover the secret histories and folklore behind Britain's best-known festivals, comparing the traditional stories, proverbs, and superstitions of Britain with those of your country.		Public Speaking Workshop/Pronunciation Workshop (start time: 13:45) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphatic language • Intonation and word/sentence stress 		Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 13 Thursday 17 th July	08:30-10:00	TEA BREAK	10:30-12:00	LUNCH	13:30-15:30	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs
	The United Kingdom Learn how the four constituent countries fit together to form the UK.		Introduction to Bath From its pre-Roman origins to its heyday as a spa resort for the 18 th century aristocracy, we uncover the various layers of this fascinating World Heritage Site (in preparation for the study tour).		Job Seeking Skills Workshop 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview techniques and strategies • Role-play 		

<p>DAY 14</p> <p>Friday 18th July</p>	<p>Study Tour - Bath</p> <p>Explore the ancient city of Bath. You will visit the Roman Baths. Enjoy a walking tour where you will see the stunning Georgian architecture around the city. Highlights include Pulteney Bridge, Bath Abbey, the Circus, Royal Crescent, and the Roman Baths. Visit the settings that inspired some of Jane Austen’s greatest works and if you wish, try a famous Sally Lunn bun!</p> <p>You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs. Transport will be by private coach.</p>		<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>
<p>DAY 15</p> <p>Saturday 19th July</p>	<p>BREAKFAST (sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Weekend</p> <p>Free time (as explained on day 2). Breakfast and dinner are offered on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.</p>		
<p>DAY 16</p> <p>Sunday 20th July</p>	<p>BREAKFAST (sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Weekend</p> <p>Free time (as explained on day 2). Breakfast and dinner are offered on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.</p>	<p>DINNER (Sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Free time</p>

WEEK THREE

DAY 17	08:30-10:00		10:30-12:00		13:30-15:30		EVENING
<p>Monday 21st July</p>	<p>Soft Skills This workshop focuses on developing the professional skills valued by potential future employers: communication, teamwork and problem solving.</p>	TEA BREAK	<p>Language for Business Relationships and Networking Discussion and activities focused on how to build good business relations and develop the skill of networking.</p>	LUNCH	<p>Collaborative Writing Activity Students work in small groups to produce a piece of creative writing.</p>	DINNER	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>
<p>DAY 18 Tuesday 22nd July</p>	<p>Academic Writing Workshop 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to avoid plagiarism • Paragraphing logically, coherently, and cohesively • Appropriate use of conjunctions and signalling language 	TEA BREAK	<p>How to “pitch” a Business Idea and Create a Business Plan Learn how to effectively communicate your idea’s promise and potential impact on the market.</p>	LUNCH	<p>The Language of Debate & Debating Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dis/agreeing • Asking for/ giving opinion • Language of persuasion • Rhetorical questions • Mini group debates 	DINNER	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>

DAY 19 Wednesday 23 rd July	08:30-12:00		LUNCH	13:30-15:30		DINNER	EVENING
	Dragon's Den Interactive Activity Students work in small groups to create a marketing pitch and business plan for a product. The students present their pitch to a panel of investors and discuss financing.			Team Building Experiment with different leadership and management theories in this fun and thought-provoking group activity.			Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 20 Thursday 24 th July	Study of a Cultural Icon William Shakespeare: An introduction to the life, language and works of England's most famous dramatist.	TEA BREAK	LUNCH	Introduction to Blenheim Palace and the Cotswolds An exploration of Blenheim Palace and the glorious gardens of Lancelot Capability Brown and the agricultural heritage of the beautiful Cotswolds area.		DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs
				Vocabulary Development Idiomatic expressions from Shakespeare still used as part of modern English.			

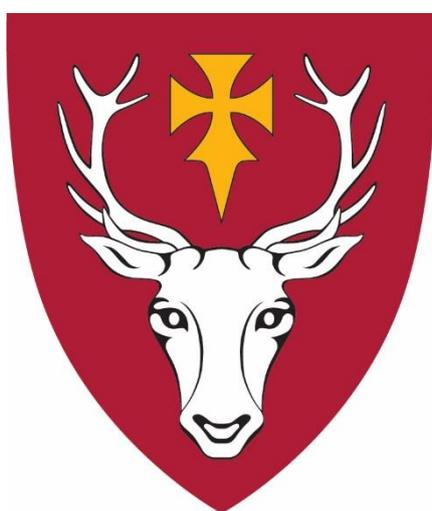
<p>DAY 21</p> <p>Friday 25th July</p>	<p>Study Visit – Blenheim Palace and the Cotswolds</p> <p>You will visit the Cotswolds, an area of outstanding natural beauty and picturesque villages in rural England. Afterwards, you will go to Blenheim Palace, one of Britain’s most famous historic landmarks where you will have a tour of its beautiful rooms and gardens.</p> <p>You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs. Transport will be by private coach.</p>		<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>
<p>DAY 22</p> <p>Saturday 26th July</p>	<p>BREAKFAST (Sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Weekend</p> <p>Free time (as explained on day 5). Breakfast is offered on this day, but you must sign up in advance with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.</p>		
<p>DAY 23</p> <p>Sunday 27th July</p>	<p>BREAKFAST (sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Weekend</p> <p>Free time (as explained on day 5). Breakfast and dinner are offered on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.</p>	<p>DINNER (Sign up in advance)</p>	<p>Free time</p>

WEEK FOUR

DAY 24	08:30-10:00		10:30-12:00		13:30-15:30		EVENING
<p>Monday 28th July</p>	<p>Contemporary Youth Culture Britain has been at the forefront of youth culture since the 1950s. Explore the world of fashion and music enjoyed by young people.</p>	<p>TEA BREAK</p>	<p>Youth Language, Slang, and Idioms Learn how social factors have shaped the language used by young people.</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	<p>History of Modern British Music Chart the rise of pop music in the UK and its influence on society, from the 1950s to the present day.</p>	<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>
<p>DAY 25 Tuesday 29th July</p>	<p>Field Work – Interviews with the Local Community (Lecture followed by visits) Discover the marketing strategies employed by local businesses: visit retail outlets in Oxford, interview consumers and comment on the layout, marketing strategies and customer service.</p>			<p>LUNCH</p>	<p>Consolidation and presentation of your research</p>	<p>DINNER</p>	<p>Cultural activities with RAs</p>

DAY 26 Wednesday 30 th July	Academic writing workshop 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on an effective conclusion • Identifying your writing strengths and weaknesses • Minimising errors and mistakes 	TEA BREAK	Global English Explore the status of the English language and its worldwide diversity.	LUNCH	Presentations Workshop 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine tuning of presentations • Language check • Body language and communicating with your audience 	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 27 Thursday 31 st July	End of Course Presentations Students deliver presentations in small groups before an audience.		LUNCH	Feedback on presentations and end of course assessment		GALA DINNER Celebrate your success at a memorable candle-lit dinner in one of Hertford College's historic Dining Halls, where you will be presented with a certificate at the end-of-course ceremony.	
DAY 28 Friday 1 st August	Free day Please note breakfast is the only meal you are entitled to on this day.						

DAY 29 Saturday 2 nd August	DEPARTURE DAY You will need to check out of your room in Hertford College by 10am! You will be accompanied by the RAs to the airport in private transport.
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