

The Peter Kirk Travel Scholarships

The Peter Kirk Memorial Fund provides scholarships for students wishing to travel within Europe to follow a personal interest in any aspect of modern European culture, granted in accordance with the eligibility criteria.

Scholarships are available to students, aged 17 to 30, currently studying at the University of Oxford at undergraduate or graduate level. Up to 6 scholarships are available and at least half the awards are designated for members of Trinity College. The remainder are targeted at students across the whole of Oxford University.

Successful applicants will receive an award to support them to undertake a trip of between 4 and 6 weeks during the long vacation, within any part of Europe, and to submit a report detailing their activities within two months of returning.

The Scholarships are funded by a generous benefaction from the family of the late Sir Peter Kirk MP.

Applications will open on Monday 5th January 2026, for travel in the Summer of 2026.

Duration of travel	Usually one month to 6 weeks
Value	Usually up to £2,000 per scholarship
Number	Up to 6 scholarships to be awarded

Nationality	British Nationals and/or nationals of any European state or country (including non-EU member states) – see * below
Level of study	Undergraduate and Graduate
Year of study	All years
Subject:	All subjects
College:	All colleges

Further Information

Eligible travel must take place during the long vacation in 2026. Applications for travel outside this timeframe will not be considered.

Successful applicants may travel within any part of Europe that is not their country of birth or nationality. For the purposes of the Peter Kirk Travel Scholarships, Europe is defined in the widest geographical sense and includes non-EU member states.

*Applicants must be nationals of any European state or country (including non-EU member states) or, in the event of them being classed as “stateless”, shall have been either nationals of any European state or country or are in the process of applying for or obtaining the status of national of any European state or country.

Scholars must (i) travel alone and (ii) pursue their interest through direct experience, gaining information from primary sources in their chosen destination.

There is no language requirement; however there are occasions when award holders may find a reasonable knowledge of a specific language important to their intended project. Peter Kirk Travel Scholarships are for the independent pursuit of an interest and cannot be used to pay for research or course work as part of the student’s academic qualification.

Before travel, all award holders must take out travel insurance, and will be asked to provide evidence of having taken out insurance prior to commencing travel.

What we offer

The value of each travel scholarship is usually up to £2,000, paid in two tranches; the first tranche of £1,000 will be paid before the end of Trinity Term to allow scholars to make travel and accommodation arrangements. The second tranche will be paid on receipt of a written report of approximately 3,000 words. Scholars are required to submit their written reports within two months of returning from their research trips.

The scholarship is not intended to cover all of the scholar's expenses and applicants must be prepared to supplement it.

How to Apply

Applications will open at 9am on Monday 5th January 2026 for travel in the Summer of 2026. Applicants must complete and [submit the online application](#) form by 5pm on Friday 20th February 2025.

The selection process will be carried out shortly after the application deadline and the results will be announced by late March / early April. Shortlisted candidates may be invited to attend a short interview.

Before you Apply

Choose an aspect of modern European life that interests you. After returning from your trip, you will be required to submit a report of approximately 3,000 words detailing your experiences and what you learned. Here are a few examples of recent projects:

- Hungarian Equestrian Culture
- Street art in Florence
- The Architecture of Protest: How public spaces shape political expression in Modern Rome
- The timeless role of the Pilgrimage in Europe
- An audiovisual exploration of techno music and postwar industrial architecture in 21st century Berlin
- Memory and nation-building in Serbia and Montenegro via film
- Grazing, Sheep-farming and the changing face of Icelandic Farms
- Tbilisi techno and queer underground youth culture in Georgia
- The significance of food and culinary activity in a French convent

Information for successful applicants

Before travelling, successful applicants will be asked to:

- provide travel documentation including a copy of their passport;

- obtain travel insurance before commencing travel, and provide evidence of having obtained insurance;
- confirm that they have checked Foreign Office travel advice in relation to their proposed destination and that there are no adverse warnings in place;
- provide details of travel and accommodation arrangements prior to commencing travel.

After returning, Peter Kirk Scholars will be asked to:

- submit a written report within two months of returning from their trips, detailing their activities and findings. Reports should be approximately 3,000 words in length and may include photographs. Trinity College reserves the right to publish such reports on the Trinity College website and Newsletter and other College or University media channels;
- participate in a presentation session during Michaelmas Term 2026 at which the 2026 Peter Kirk Scholars will give a presentation on their activities.