Support for your school

There are more than 60 committed staff working on access and outreach across Oxford University. Each college is linked to a region in the UK, and the schools in the region have a college contact, from whom they can request information, a visit or just get some advice on applying to Oxford.

The Access Team at Trinity College prioritise outreach engagement with schools on the basis of specific needs related to lower rates of progression to Higher Education, to the Russell Group universities and to the University of Oxford. We also prioritise engagement with under-represented and disadvantaged groups. If you or your school do not fall into these categories there is still plenty of advice and support available to you and your students here on the College Schools & Outreach pages and the University website. You are most welcome to contact us directly for more guidance on how to access that support.

Your school’s main point of contact is Hannah Rolley, Head of Access and Emma Johnson the Access Officer at Trinity College and they can be contacted on: 01865 279860 or 01865 279864 or by emailing hannahrolley@trinity.ox.ac.uk or emmajohnson@trinity.ox.ac.uk

Find out more about Outreach at the University of Oxford here and how we target our work here.

Access Visits into Your School

The Access team at Trinity College visit state schools in Oxfordshire on Mondays and Thursdays and offer sessions on any of the following:

- **YR4, 5 & 6** What is University? Supporting primary aged pupils to understand what university education is, why and how they might get there. Suitable for all pupils
- **YR 7 & 8** Exploring University: the purpose, myth-busting the cost and what it might be like to study there. Suitable for all pupils
- **YR9** Exploring University: the purpose, myth-busting the cost and a brief introduction to the University of Oxford. Suitable for all pupils
- **YR10** An Introduction to Oxford: the people, the courses & the Super Curriculum. Suitable for all pupils and those beginning to show potential to apply to a top university
- **YR11** Exploring A-Level Options: University courses and the Russell Group. Suitable for all pupils
- **YR12** Oxford & the application process. Suitable for those expressing an interest and/or having potential to apply to Oxford and/or Cambridge
- **YR12** Personal Statement Workshop. Suitable for all pupils and/or those applying to Oxford and/or Cambridge
- **YR13** Interviews and Admissions Test Guidance workshop. Suitable for those who have submitted an application to Oxbridge

The Access team are very happy to adapt sessions to meet the needs of any particular group of pupils, so please do get in touch to discuss in more detail.
School Access Visits into Trinity College

Trinity College welcome state Primary and Secondary teachers to book pupil visits into the University on a **Tuesday** or **Wednesday** and you are welcome to get in touch to arrange a visit.

*A sample visit into College / University of Oxford:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Welcome by the Access Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>General University / University of Oxford Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Meet current undergraduates with Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch with undergraduate students &amp; College tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Academic taster or taught session at a museum or department ex. ‘Object Handling’ at the Ashmolean or a ‘Collections Up Close’ at the Bodleian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>End of the day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Access team are very happy to adapt College visit days to meet the needs of any particular group of pupils, so please do get in touch to discuss in more detail.

**Teacher Support Sessions in Your School**

The Head of Access, Hannah Rolley, also runs Teacher Support Sessions at any of the above times in schools, throughout the year. In these sessions, we aim to provide up to date information and guidance relating to the Oxford application process and the purpose of each stage, for example the admissions tests and interviews. We offer guidance to teachers and other professionals about how they can best support their pupils in all higher education applications, as well as those who may have the potential to apply to Oxford. We particularly welcome invitations from schools and teachers who have little experience of the University of Oxford or low pupil progression to the Russell Group or Higher Education in general. These sessions can be planned around the demands of the school day and as such could take place after the teaching day, during staff meetings or training days.

An example of what a teacher session might look like:

- The Oxford application process.
- The UCAS teacher reference – the essentials.
- How to offer students guidance and feedback on the personal statement.
- Relevant super-curricular activity, the EPQ & work experience.
- The admissions tests and interview.
- General Q&A for all teachers
University Wide Support Available to Your Teachers and Pupils

Regional Teacher Conferences:

Because the University recognises the key role that teachers and careers advisers play in encouraging students to consider their options and make informed decisions, we run regional teacher conferences. During conferences, we welcome the chance to talk with teachers and advisers about supporting your students through all aspects of considering and applying to Oxford. Sign up to attend the next conference in your region.

Teacher Summer Schools:

Oxford’s CPD accredited Teacher Summer School is a FREE two-day residential conference for teachers from state-funded schools and colleges in the UK. During the summer school, teachers receive detailed support and guidance about the Oxford admissions process, experience taster sessions for different academic subjects, and learn from mock interviews. It aims to support teachers to stretch and challenge their most able students, and equip them with the best possible advice and guidance on selective university admissions.

The next Teacher Summer School will take place in Oxford on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 July 2019. Applications will open in early January 2019.

Oxbridge Student Conferences

These conferences are designed as Open Days on the road, our conferences bring experienced admissions staff, subject specialists and current students from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge to you and your students at venues around the UK.

The events are aimed at Year 12 students (or equivalent) who are studying for their A Levels/IB (or equivalent) and are beginning to consider their options for study beyond sixth form. These full day events provide up to date information about our courses, clearly outline the admissions process and provide students with the opportunity to hear first-hand how our current undergraduate students find life at Oxford and Cambridge. Our aim is for students to leave having explored the breadth of subjects on offer to them, gained a deeper insight into what our courses involve and an understanding of how both universities assess applications.

For 2019, we will once again be hosting a Teachers Programme throughout the morning sessions and encourage teachers and HE advisors to consider attending the conferences alongside students. Find out more about the conferences here.
Open Days

All colleges will be open for all prospective students on Oxford University Open Days. 2019 Open Days will be Wednesday 3rd July, Thursday 4th July and Friday 20th September. Additionally, departments will hold Open Days on the following dates:

Classics – 15 March
Computer Science – 11 May
Geography – 17 June
Law – 11, 12 and 13 March
Materials Science – 20 February, 13 and 14 March
Mathematics – 27 April and 4 May
Modern Languages – 4th May

Oxplore: The Home of Big Questions

Oxplore is an innovative digital outreach portal from the University of Oxford. As the ‘Home of Big Questions’ it aims to engage those from 11 to 18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. The big questions aim to tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and draw on the latest research undertaken at Oxford. Oxplore aims to realise aspirations, promote deeper thinking and stimulate intellectual curiosity. This could be an effective tool to aid thinking and discussion skills development. Find out more about Oxplore here and explore some of the Big Questions here.

Targeted Programmes of Support for Your Pupils

UNIQ Residential – Spring or Summer

YR12 students come to Oxford for five days, stay in a college, attend an academic programme during the day and take part in social activities in the evenings. Students will get first-hand experience of life at university, meet like-minded people and gain deeper understanding of a subject that interests them.

Academic Programme

During UNIQ students will be taught by Oxford academics, attend lectures and labs, and use departmental facilities – just like a real undergraduate! In addition to lectures students might be asked to prepare some independent work for a tutorial at the end of the week where they will go through the topic in detail, either individually with a tutor or in a small group.
The UNIQ academic programmes are demanding, but they are also fun and students get to look at their favourite subject in new and engaging ways. The UNIQ courses give students an insight into what studying at degree level, and at Oxford, is really like.

We run courses on over 30 subjects, so there’s plenty to choose from and almost certainly something to suit a variety of interests. Have a look at the courses page for more information.

Admissions advice

We understand that aiming high and applying to top universities like Oxford can seem a little daunting. There will be a range of dedicated sessions throughout the week providing information on every aspect of the application process.

Social Programme

It’s not all hard work! Outside of the academic timetable there will be free time or opportunities to take part in a range of social activities. In the past there have been stand-up comedy evenings, sports and games in the park, college tours, city-wide scavenger hunts and epic parties.

For more information on the selection criteria for UNIQ and to make an application click here.

Target Oxbridge

Target Oxbridge is a free programme that aims to help black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge (known collectively as Oxbridge). Since launching in 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped 81 students to secure Oxbridge offers.

The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12 (as well as, in certain circumstances Year 13). The students accepted onto the programme will be high attainers – they will ideally have achieved, 5 grades at A*, 9, 8 or 7 at GCSE. In the case of students hoping to study Medicine, they will ideally have achieved 8 grades at A*, 9 or 8 at GCSE.

The various strands of the programme focus on intellectual, cultural and social development irrespective of personal or economic barriers. These strands include:

- Regular contact with a black or minority ethnic Oxbridge graduate to pinpoint your strengths, discuss your aspirations and identify areas for development.
- A tailored series of critical theory discussions, seminars, Oxbridge-style tutorials, visits to both universities and guest speaker events.
- Advice on making the right degree subject, university and college selection.
• Personalised advice on your personal statement, UCAS form, SAQ statement and other submitted materials including essays, statements of purpose and portfolios.
• Structured Oxbridge interview practice, test preparation sessions with trained markers/assessors and revision workshops.
• One-on-one mentoring.

More information about how to apply can be found [here](#).

**Universify Education**

The vision is for all students to reach their potential in education. To achieve this, Universify want to help more students from non-traditional backgrounds to feel empowered and excited about fulfilling their potential at top universities.

Through their year-long programme the aim is to improve educational aspirations, school attainment and application prospects to highly selective universities.

The year-long programme is for Year 10 students unsure about whether university is for them. By taking part in the programme they will become a university student for a week in the summer, and gain a true experience of what it is like to study at a top university and how they can make it to a highly selective university, with the help of a Universify coach.

If you would like to know more about the programme you can Register your school’s interest [here](#).

**Study Higher**

This programme is funded as part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) which aims to promote social mobility by encouraging access to higher education for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Under the NCOP, we are required to work with young people in school years 9 -13 who live in specific geographical areas across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Swindon. These geographical areas have been identified at ward level and are selected as they show:

• Low levels of participation in higher education overall
• A ‘gap’ in higher education participation – i.e. participation in higher education is lower than would be expected given GCSE attainment levels.

In order to support the Government’s goals to increase participation in higher education by young people from these particular areas, we are working closely with schools, colleges, community groups, local councils and other stakeholders to deliver inspirational and informative activities and events.
More information on the targeting of the project and student eligibility checker can be found here.

Opportunity Programme

This programme, run by University College, Oxford has committed to creating extra undergraduate places and offering targeted academic support in the form of a summer bridging course to ensure that these students are able to transition effectively to high-level University study.

From the October 2016 admissions round, the College has increased its undergraduate intake by 10%. These new places are filled through the University’s normal competitive admissions process, but are available only to students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. These additional students are selected in the usual way and according to the usual academic criteria. The aim of the scheme is simple: to ensure that very deserving students of high potential who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, but who might otherwise miss out on a place at Oxford due to the sheer number of applications, have the chance to study here. You can find out more about this programme here.

Foundation Year

The Foundation Year is a free and fully funded, year-long course designed to enable students from underrepresented backgrounds to reach their potential. Students on the Foundation Year live and study at Lady Margaret Hall, a college of the University of Oxford. Over the academic year, students receive tuition in their chosen subject and you will also take a ‘Preparation for Undergraduate Study’ course. All of this teaching is aimed at preparing Foundation Year students to go on an excel either at Oxford University or at any other highly-selective university. Lowered grade requirements:

We recognise that achievement at GCSE and A Level is not necessarily an indicator of academic potential, and so we accept students onto the Foundation Year with grades that are lower than the traditional Oxford offer (e.g. BBB instead of AAA). More information about this programme is available here.

Additional Support for Schools

Careers Education:

The University of Oxford Careers Service are piloting a series of our successful programmes that we use with undergraduate students, in versions appropriate, usable, and effective for schools. The first programmes that have been tailored especially for schools are Litmus, The Student Consultancy for Schools, and Ignite. This initiative also extends to a specialised
programme called Opportunity North which offers careers education support for state schools in the North East of England. Read more about each of these programmes and find out how you can get involved by clicking on the dedicated linked web pages below:

**Litmus**

Targeted and personalised careers advice can be more effective with students and more efficient for staff; Litmus is a careers registration tool that asks students to define their frame of mind around their career and the specific industry sectors in which they are interested. Staff can then use these to arrange tailored careers events that fit with students' current mindset and industry interests.

**The Student Consultancy for Schools**

The Student Consultancy for Schools is a structured programme designed to engage teams of pupils on real business issues with local organisations. Pupils who take part learn basic consulting skills including analysis, research, interviewing, presenting and report writing, as well as secondary skills of planning their time, taking part in a 12+ week project, working with the public and business people, and understanding how organisations work.

**Ignite: Careers Confidence for Schools**

Ignite is a programme of over 60 separate, age-specific lessons on assertiveness, confidence, networking, and marketing for Key Stages 3, 4, and 5. The programme is designed to be delivered by (e.g., PSHE) teachers within the existing curriculum, in 20, 30, 45, or 60 minute lessons.

**The Oxford Careers Website**

Oxford University Careers website might be of particular interest to teachers interested in supporting student progression within their own school. On this website teachers can find information supporting and developing student knowledge and understanding of the different sector & occupation pathways, guidance on generating careers ideas and CV writing.

Trinity College strongly encourages all teachers to sign up to the eNewsletter to keep up to date with school events and other developments across the University and departments. We also encourage teachers to use the University teacher’s section on the website for advice, information and resources.