



Short-term Exchange Programme in Oxford
Using Data to Understand Demographic Change

OXFORD

11th -20th SEPTEMBER 2026



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Introduction

The programme provides international students with a comprehensive and structured opportunity to experience Oxford's academic environment. It is designed to offer a well-rounded learning experience, combining academic exploration, interdisciplinary exposure, and professional development. By engaging with Oxford-style teaching, students will not only gain insights into various academic disciplines but also develop critical thinking, research skills, and global perspectives.

- **Exposure to Multidisciplinary Learning:** to explore different academic fields and broaden their knowledge.
- **Skill Development:** Workshops on critical thinking, AI tools, academic research, debate, and networking equip students with essential skills for higher education and career advancement.
- **Familiarity with the Oxford Learning Approach:** Sessions on Oxford's tutorial system and independent learning help students adapt to academic environments that emphasize discussion-based and self-directed learning.
- **Career and Academic Progression:** Guidance on study planning, time management, and networking enables students to make informed decisions about their future academic and professional pathways.
- **Interactive and Practical Engagement:** Through group presentations, seminars, and discussions, students develop confidence, communication skills, and the ability to collaborate effectively.
- **Cultural and Social Enrichment:** The programme fosters an understanding of Oxford's academic traditions while allowing students to connect with peers, faculty, and alumni from diverse backgrounds.

In addition, students will explore the UK's rich history and cultural heritage through organised visits to sites such as the British Museum and Cambridge colleges during the weekend, enhancing their cultural exchange experience.

Programme Schedule

The programme will take place from **11 September to 20 September 2026**, with the academic training running from **14 September to 18 September**.

- **11 September:** Arrival in the UK and move into the college.
- **12 September:** Explore Oxford, become familiar with the local environment, and adjust to the time difference in preparation for the intensive course.
- **13 September:** Visit the British Museum to experience the rich history and culture of the UK.
- **14–18 September:** Academic training sessions (see Page 6 for detailed course schedule).
- **19 September:** Excursion to the University of Cambridge for cultural and academic exploration.
- **20 September:** A culture visit to Windsor Castle, followed by departure for the airport and return to China.

About Oxford

Oxford is a unique and historic institution. As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, it can lay claim to nine centuries of continuous existence.

The University of Oxford comprises 43 constituent colleges, consisting of 36 semi-autonomous colleges, 4 permanent private halls and 3 societies (colleges that are departments of the university, without their own royal charter) and a range of academic departments which are organised into four divisions (Natural Sciences, Humanities, Medical Sciences and Social Sciences). Each college is a self-governing institution within the university that controls its own membership and has its own internal structure and activities. All students are members of a college. Oxford does not have a main campus, but most of its older colleges are located in the historic city centre. University buildings and facilities are scattered throughout the city.

Oxford has educated a wide range of notable alumni, including 31 prime ministers of the United Kingdom and many heads of state and government around the world. As of October 2022, 73 Nobel Prize laureates, 4 Fields Medalists, and 6 Turing Award winners have matriculated, worked, or held visiting fellowships at the University of Oxford, while its alumni have won 160 Olympic medals. Oxford is home to numerous scholarships, including the Rhodes Scholarship, one of the oldest international graduate scholarship programmes in the world. In 2024, Oxford ranked first nationally for undergraduate education, and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 ranked the University of Oxford first globally.



About Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing was established in 1998. Based on the US Population Center, it was funded by a grant from the National Institute of Health (National Institute on Aging - NIA) to establish the UK's first population-oriented centre on the demography and economics of ageing. It achieved Institute status in 2001.

Our aim is to undertake research into the implications of population change. We are a multi-disciplinary group with demography as our main disciplinary focus, and links into all four University Divisions. Our researchers work in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, and we run the Population Networks AFRAN (Africa) LARNA (Latin America) EAST (Central and Eastern Europe).



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Using Data to Understand Demographic Change

Monday 14th September – Wednesday 18th September

This training programme provides students with a comprehensive understanding of Using Data to Understand Demographic Change. By engaging in interdisciplinary lectures, workshops, and seminars, students will develop critical knowledge, analytical skills, and practical insights that are essential for addressing future population challenges.

	14 th Sept	15 th Sept	16 th Sept	17 th Sept	18 th Sept
9:00-10:00	Introduction to Oxford and Course	Academic English Language	Academic English Language	Academic English Language	Academic English Language
10:15-11:15	Lecture: Population ageing	Lecture: Economics of Ageing	Lecture: Social Care Data in the UK	Lecture: Age-friendly Communities	Group Presentations & Feedback
11:30-12:30	Workshop: Finding Your Research Gap	Workshop: Public Engagement	Workshop: Critical Thinking	Workshop: Ethic and Data Protection	Lecture: Group Presentations & Feedback
13:30-14:30	Seminar: Economics of Ageing (birth cohorts of elderly, impacts of Covid-19 and war)	Seminar: Economics Laboratory	Seminar: Open and Reproducible Social Science	Seminar: 21 st Century Challenges	Lecture: Summary
15:00-17:00	Ashmolean Museum	Bodleian Library	Nature history Museum	Punting	Certificates Closing Ceremony

RED – Introduction and Language Skills: Familiarity with the Oxford Learning Approach: Sessions on Oxford’s tutorial system and independent learning help students adapt to academic environments that emphasize discussion-based and self-directed learning

BLUE – Seminars and Lectures: Provide Multidisciplinary Learning exploring different academic fields and broadening knowledge

ORANGE – Academic Development: equip students with essential skills for higher education and career advancement, providing guidance on study planning, time management, and networking enables students to make informed decisions about their future academic and professional pathways.

Green – Student-led group presentations and feedback sessions, providing participants with opportunities to present their ideas, receive constructive feedback from instructors and peers, and reflect on key learning outcomes from the course.

Purple - Cultural and experiential activities, including visits to major Oxford museums, libraries, and traditional punting, designed to enrich participants' understanding of Oxford's academic heritage and local culture while offering a more relaxed learning environment.

Day 1 Monday 14th September
Introduction & Oxford Learning Method This session introduces the students to the full course. It also explains the University of Oxford method with its emphasis on encouraging the student to explore outside the topic through self-motivated data and literature examination.
Lecture: Population Ageing A detailed overview of the main drivers and trends of demographic ageing at the societal level.
Workshop: Finding Your Research Gap This workshop guides participants through strategies for critically reviewing literature and recognising gaps where new research can make a meaningful contribution.
Seminar: Economics of Ageing The session will explore health economics issues related to changes in capabilities of birth cohorts of the elderly and impacts on population ageing of the Covid pandemic and war.
Day 2 Tuesday 15th September
Academic English: The Oxford English Centre
Economics of Ageing An overview of key economic issues related to population ageing, including impacts on labour markets, pensions, healthcare systems, and intergenerational equity.
Workshop: Public Engagement This practical workshop introduces participants to effective public engagement strategies, equipping them with the skills to communicate research on population ageing to policymakers, community stakeholders, and the wider public.
Seminar: Economics Laboratory The session will introduce experimental methods in economics, where participants engage in simulated decision-making tasks to explore economic behaviour and theory in practice.
Day 3 Wednesday 16th September
Academic English The Oxford English Centre
Lecture: Social Care Data in the UK An overview of key social care data in the UK, showcasing how such data is collected, structured, and used to inform research and policy.
Workshop: Critical Thinking A practical exploration of the core principles and strategies used to develop and apply critical thinking in academic settings.

Seminar: Open and Reproducible Social Science

This session will give a general introduction to open and reproducible social science. The proliferation of open-source software and the unprecedented availability of large-scale data have rendered the principles of openness, reproducibility, and responsibility in social science research both increasingly practicable and indispensable. These methodological commitments are now gaining heightened recognition within formal evaluation exercises and scholarly assessment frameworks. In this session, we will critically examine the paradigms underpinning open and reproducible research, while considering the epistemological, methodological, and societal benefits of conducting scholarship that is maximally transparent, accessible, and inclusive.

Day 4 Thursday 17th September

Academic English
The Oxford English Centre

Age-friendly Communities

An introduction to the concept of age-friendly communities, exploring key features, global frameworks, and strategies for creating inclusive environments for older adults.

Workshop: Ethic and Data Protection

A workshop providing practical guidance on ethical considerations and data protection practices essential for conducting research on ageing populations.

Seminar: 21st Century Challenges

This session will explore key contemporary demographic shifts, technological transformation, and evolving economic structures shaping societies today. It will examine how these interconnected forces are redefining labour markets, social systems, and patterns of inequality in the twenty-first century.

Day 5 Friday 18th September

Academic English
The Oxford English Centre

Group Presentations & Feedback

A session where participants deliver group presentations and receive constructive feedback to enhance their communication, collaboration, and presentation skills.

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Summary

Professor Harper will present an overview of the week's learning and the academic highlights.

Certificates & Closing Ceremony

A closing session to celebrate participants' achievements and present certificates of completion.

Accommodation

St Anne's College

From its founding as the Society of Oxford Home-Students in 1879, St Anne's College has always been about widening access to an Oxford education. It uniquely enabled women from the UK and many other countries to attend lectures and tutorials whilst living more flexibly and affordably than the other women's halls, at home or in lodgings across the city. Since 1952 it has been a full College of the University of Oxford, welcoming both male and female students since 1979.

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