

OVERSEAS STUDENT PROGRAMME

HANDBOOK FOR APPLICANTS

STUDY ABROAD AT BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD

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As a Visiting Student at Blackfriars Hall in the University of Oxford you will be able to follow accredited studies for one year in Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, English Literature, Classics, Church History and British History. You will enjoy access to the academic and wider social and recreational facilities of the University of Oxford, as well as what we offer you in the Hall.

Your teaching will be provided primarily through weekly tutorials, usually on a one-to-one basis, where you discuss with the tutor an essay you have prepared. The normal expectation is that OSP students receive two tutorials a week. Some students prefer to take one tutorial per week, or three every two weeks, but if you are on the OSP this must be negotiated with your home university as well as with the Director of Visiting Students at Blackfriars. As well as lectures at Blackfriars you will be able to attend an extremely wide range of lectures and seminars in the University.

You will be able to read not only in our own specialist library, but also in the Bodleian library, one of the world's largest and most prestigious academic libraries. You will be able to borrow books from the Theology Faculty library and the other Faculty libraries relevant to your courses.

Our Programme has been in existence for over 25 years. We have a very experienced staff who are dedicated to making your transition to study in Oxford as successful as possible. You will be able to call in particular on the help of our Overseas Students Programme Liaison Manager who oversees your accommodation and welfare. Our Visiting Students are normally accommodated in nearby houses equipped for self-catering, but eat many of their meals at a nearby Hall of the University.



Blackfriars, Oxford

PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

- Philosophy and Theology
- Philosophy, Theology and English Literature
- Philosophy, Theology and British History
- Philosophy, Theology and Church History
- Philosophy, Theology and Classics in translation

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Students participating in our programmes receive:

- 'Oxbridge' tutorial teaching: two tutorials a week in which one or two students discuss an essay with a tutor;
- each week, one tutorial in Philosophy or Theology, and the other chosen according to their specialisation (note: it may be possible to negotiate a slightly different pattern of subjects, especially if this is needed so as to fulfil requirements of the home university);
- access to the world-famous Bodleian Library, faculty libraries, university lectures and seminars;
- additional lectures at Blackfriars;
- optional classes in Latin, New Testament Greek or Biblical Hebrew;
- accommodation within easy walking distance of Blackfriars.

APPLYING TO BLACKFRIARS

The Hall accepts a maximum of eighteen Visiting Students each year. The majority come from American universities or colleges, for example, Fairfield University, Fordham University, Providence College, Iona College, University of Denver, St Ignatius Institute at the University of San Francisco, Villanova, and Dominican University. Students from these institutions receive credits equivalent to full-time study at their home university.

We also welcome applications from undergraduate and postgraduate students at other universities outside the United Kingdom. Undergraduate applicants should be able to demonstrate a minimum GPA of 3.6 or its equivalent, and must obtain permission from their home university to spend a year abroad at Blackfriars.

The Oxford tutorial system is demanding and you need to be both academically bright and self-motivated. If you are ready to rise to the challenge, however, it will be a very rewarding experience.

Application should be received no later than **1st March 2012**, though it may be possible to consider late applications.

ARRANGEMENT OF TEACHING

You will have two weekly tutorials and must in addition attend two lecture courses at Blackfriars each term. When making your application you can list your preferred tutorial courses, and, as far as possible, we will try to arrange the options you request. Students are not normally assigned to the same tutor in theology or philosophy for more than one term.

Tutorial teaching for the first term is fixed before the students arrive and cannot be altered unless in exceptional circumstances. Some tutorial teaching for the second and third terms is arranged before the students arrive, but there is flexibility if students wish to alter their options. Lectures and classes will be proposed by Blackfriars based on your chosen options, subject to confirmation after consultation with students on arrival.

MONITORING OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Tutors comment to the student on every essay they receive (though it is not necessarily graded). The academic progress of the Visiting Students is monitored throughout the year by the Vice-Regent. Students or tutors and lecturers who have any academic concerns may raise them with him.

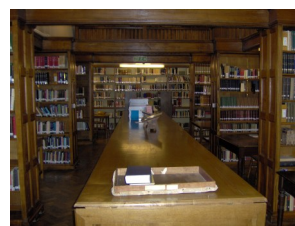
There are weekly office hours at which students may come to discuss their work and any problems they may be experiencing. If, in exceptional circumstances, a student were to find that they were unable to work with the assigned tutor, the Vice-Regent would make alternative arrangements.

Each tutor writes a report on the student at the end of term and the student has a meeting with the Vice-Regent to discuss the term's work.



Student accommodation in St John Street, a stone's throw from Blackfriars

Teaching is primarily through weekly one-to-one tutorials where students discuss with the tutor an essay they have prepared



The Library at Blackfriars

PASTORAL CARE OF STUDENTS

The Overseas Programme Liaison Manager is the person who has first contact with the students on their arrival, who makes them welcome and eases their way into life in England.

Together with the Moderators, the Liaison Manager organises social events; she arranges and checks on the quality of the accommodation as well as ensuring that the students have received their allowances. She keeps a discreet eye on how the students settle in and is available to offer appropriate support.

Students may contact the Liaison Manager as need arises and each has a mid-term meeting with her in which particular problems can be discussed.

Students may also approach the Senior Dean or the Chaplain to discuss any issue in confidence. They may also approach any of the Moderators or the Harassment Officer.

In addition to the pastoral care provided by Blackfriars, Visiting Students have full access to the Counselling Services of the University.



Church Tower
Blackfriars, Oxford

CONDUCT

All Visiting Students are required to abide by the University's Rules and Codes of Practice and the Rules of Blackfriars. In practice, this often means no more than the common sense courtesy and respect one mature adult would have for his or her neighbour.

For more information see:

- <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam> (University Rules)

ACCOMMODATION

At present, all of our visiting students are accommodated in two adjacent comfortable and historic houses in St John Street, just outside the back gate of Blackfriars. Accommodation is in **single or twin rooms**, according to the preference of the home university and subject to availability. Bed linen is provided, but students are responsible for laundering their own linen and clothes as well as cleaning their own room. An inventory is done at the beginning of the year, and an inspection takes place at the end of every term.

Students have the use of their room throughout the academic year, from their arrival at the start of October through to nearly the end of June. They may receive guests, but only with the permission of the Overseas Programme Liaison Manager and the agreement of their house-mates.

Each house has washing machine and tumble drier together with a fully-equipped kitchen and a common sitting room. A cleaner is employed for the common areas of the houses.

A telephone line is provided in each house for incoming calls, and students will be given the telephone number before coming to Oxford.

In the event that not all students can be accommodated in St John Street, Blackfriars will arrange alternative nearby accommodation with similar facilities.

The tutorial system enables close monitoring of academic progress. The close-knit environment of an Oxford Hall is ideal for ensuring Student Welfare.



On the river

FOOD

Given the nature of Blackfriars Priory as a religious house for Dominican friars, we can only offer dining facilities to student members on a few occasions during the year.

Arrangements have been made for our students to dine at another nearby Hall of the University, where they eat lunch every day during term time. Breakfast and the evening meal are self-catering. Each month the students will receive a catering allowance to cover the cost of self-catered meals.

Daily lunch during term and the monthly self-catering allowance are included in the amount charged for food.

FEES AND PAYMENTS

Tuition fees are normally arranged through each student's home University. Arrangements for payment of fees for accommodation and food differ from one home University to another. For more information about the costs involved in studying at Blackfriars Hall, contact your Study Abroad director.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Emergency Contact: Students must provide Blackfriars with names, addresses and phone numbers of next of kin, for use in an emergency.

Health Insurance: Every student enrolled in full-time study at British Universities is eligible for coverage on the National Health Service. Visiting Students are obliged to register at a local health centre upon arrival.

Other Insurance: Students are strongly advised to obtain travel insurance before leaving for the UK. They might also choose to take out contents insurance to cover their belongings while in Oxford.

Immigration: As an international student (non EEA/Swiss) student coming to Oxford to study a full-time course of more than 6 months you must obtain Entry Clearance (a visa) under Tier 4 (General) Student before coming to the UK to start your course. If you do not have Entry Clearance when you arrive, you will not be allowed to enter the UK.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) requires you to be formally sponsored by a licensed UK higher education institution - the University of Oxford in our case. Once your offer to study is unconditional (you have met all academic and financial conditions) the University will contact you by email about the preparation of your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This is a unique number which will enable UKBA officers to access information which your College and the University has provided.

Working: Students with Tier Four Adult student Visas from abroad to take some kinds of employment during the course of their studies. Visiting students at Blackfriars should understand, however, that they are only allowed to work subject to the express permission of the Hall. Requests should be made to the Vice Regent.

What to bring to Oxford? The Overseas Student Programme Liaison Manager is in contact with the students throughout the summer preceding their arrival, and will give details about what should be brought. Students may address any queries directly to the Liaison Manager.



The Bodleian Library,
University of Oxford

**Our visiting
students are
accommodated in
two comfortable
and historic
houses just
outside the back
gate of Blackfriars.**



Blackfriars students enjoying
a reading week in the Lake
District after Michaelmas
Term.

TUTORIAL COURSES

If your programme of study at your home University requires a different selection of subjects from those below, please consult the Director of Visiting Students at Blackfriars, since it **may** be possible to provide a pattern of courses to suit your needs.

THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

Track A applicants should list nine of the following courses in order of preference in section three of the application form. Six of these will be studied at Blackfriars.

Track B, C, D and E applicants should list six of the following courses in section three of the application form, of which three will be studied at Blackfriars.

- TH01 General Old Testament Study
- TH02 Old Testament: Prophecy
- TH03 Old Testament: Historical Books
- TH04 Old Testament: Pentateuch
- TH05 Old Testament: Wisdom, Psalms & Apocalyptic
- TH06 General New Testament Studies
- TH07 New Testament: Synoptic Gospels
- TH08 New Testament: Luke—Acts
- TH09 New Testament: The Fourth Gospel
- TH10 New Testament: Pauline Studies
- TH11 Christian Art & Archaeology
- TH12 Early Christian Doctrine
- TH13 Early Church Writers: Apostolic Fathers to Augustine
- TH14 Augustine
- TH15 Early Church History
- TH16 Theology of Aquinas
- TH17 Mediaeval Church History
- TH18 Renaissance & Reformation
- TH19 Modern Church History
- TH20 20th Century Theologians
- TH21 Documents of Vatican II
- TH22 Major Topics in Christian Doctrine
- TH23 God and Creation
- TH24 The Most Holy Trinity
- TH25 Christology & Soteriology
- TH26 Grace & Original Sin
- TH27 Ecclesiology
- TH28 Sacraments
- TH29 The Mother of God
- TH30 Eschatology
- TH31 Christian Ethics
- TH32 Spirituality
- TH33 Canon Law
- TH34 World Religions

- PH01 Major Topics in Philosophy
- PH02 Philosophy of Religion
- PH03 Moral Philosophy
- PH04 Philosophy of Mind
- PH05 Ancient Philosophy
- PH06 Plato
- PH07 Aristotle
- PH08 Stoics & Epicureans
- PH09 Mediaeval Philosophy
- PH10 Philosophy of Aquinas
- PH11 Descartes to Kant
- PH12 Heidegger
- PH13 Wittgenstein
- PH14 Theory of Politics

- PH15 Metaphysics
- PH16 Epistemology
- PH17 Science and Religion
- PH18 Anthropology
- PH19 Health-Care Ethics
- PH20 Business Ethics
- PH21 Introduction to Psychology
- PH22 Developmental Psychology
- PH23 Social Psychology
- PH24 Cognitive Neuroscience
- PH25 Psychology & Theology
- P26 Theories of Personality & its Problems

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Track B applicants should list five of the following courses in order of preference in section three of the application form. Three of these will be studied at Blackfriars.

- EL01 Shakespeare
- EL02 Elizabethan & Jacobean Drama
- EL03 18th & 19th Century English Novel
- EL04 19th Century Fiction
- EL05 20th Century English Novel
- EL06 Chaucer & Contemporaries
- EL07 16th & 17th Century Poetry
- EL08 Poetry of Milton
- EL09 Romantic Novelists & Poets
- EL10 20th Century English Fiction and Poetry
- EL11 Women & Literature: 19th Century
- EL12 Women & Literature: 20th Century
- EL13 An Introduction to the 19th and 20th Century French Novel (in translation).

CLASSICS

Track C applicants should list five of the following courses in order of preference in section three of the application form. Three of these will be studied at Blackfriars.

- CL01 Homer
- CL02 Greek Tragedy
- CL03 Aristophanes
- CL04 Virgil
- CL05 Principate
- CL06 Late Empire

CHURCH HISTORY

Track D applicants will study the following courses at Blackfriars:

- CH01 Church History I
- CH02 Church History II
- CH03 Church History III

BRITISH HISTORY

Track E applicants will study the following courses at Blackfriars:

- BH01 British History I
- BH02 British History II
- BH03 British History III

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This handbook, aimed at applicants to our programme, is part of an information pack sent out to Study Abroad Directors in September each year for entry of students in October of the following year.

Along with this handbook, you should also have received:

- an application form with accompanying notes.

Further supplies can be requested from the above address, but all of these materials can also be downloaded in PDF format from our website at the following address:

<http://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/~osp/>

BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD

For more information, contact:

Admissions

Blackfriars

St Giles

OXFORD

OX1 3LY

UNITED KINGDOM

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Blackfriars Hall is part of the most ancient University in the English-speaking world: Oxford. Blackfriars is run by the English Dominican friars, who first came to the medieval University city in 1221.

The Dominican vocation is summed up in the Order's motto *veritas* ('truth'), and encompasses the pursuit of truth about human life and dignity. The friars invite others to join with them in this pursuit. If you desire "to make sense of it all", Blackfriars may be right for you.



Annual Hall Dinner