



Hertford College
OXFORD



August Open Enrolment

At Hertford College, Oxford

*Advanced English Language and British Culture
Three Week 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 forwards to meeting you.



DAY 1 Sunday 3 rd August	ARRIVAL DAY • Arrive at a London airport • Travel to Oxford. You will stay in Oxford University accommodation • Hertford College Residential Advisors (RAs) will meet you • On arrival: meal and welcome information						
WEEK ONE							
DAY 2 Monday 4 th August	09:00 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	11:00 – 12:30	LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00	DINNER	EVENING
	Introduction to the Advanced English Language and British Culture Programme English Language Assessment Students complete a placement test.		Communication Activities A chance to get to know your teacher. British Etiquette Etiquette is the code of polite behaviour in society. Discuss and learn what is considered acceptable and appropriate.		Welcome Tea at 3.15pm Sample a delicious and traditional cream tea in the splendid surroundings of Hertford College’s historic dining hall.		Cultural Activities with RAs

DAY 3	09:00 – 10:30		11:00 – 12:30		14:00 – 16:00		EVENING
Tuesday 5 th August	Aspects of Oxford Presentations by students based on the pre-programme task. Each mini presentation will be followed by a Q and A session.	TEA BREAK	The History of Oxford University and an Introduction to the Tutorial System Explore the development of the leading university in the English-speaking world. The lecture is followed by a Q and A session on the university's application process and student life.	LUNCH	Tour of Discovery A self-guided exploration of the hidden corners of Oxford to help you become familiar with this fascinating city	DINNER	Cultural Activities with RAs
DAY 4 Wednesday 6 th August	The History of the English Language A study of the development of the English language, from the language spoken by the first invaders to the different versions existing around the world today	TEA BREAK	Presentations Workshop 1 • An introduction to student presentations • How to plan and deliver a presentation effectively	LUNCH	The Monarchy, Society, Family and Class Understand how the Kings and Queens of England have shaped society and culture.	DINNER	Cultural Activities with RAs

DAY 5 Thursday 7 th August	09:00 – 10:30 Food and Drink Learn about local and regional specialities and the history behind some of our famous dishes. You will also become familiar with some idiomatic expressions connected to food.	TEA BREAK	11:00 – 12:30 Advanced Social English Colloquial English and successful interaction: how to be 'spontaneous' in your conversation	LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00 'The Finest View in England' An exploration of Blenheim Palace and the magnificent gardens of Lancelot Capability Brown. You will also discover the agricultural heritage of the beautiful Cotswolds area.	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 6 Friday 8 th August	Study Tour – Blenheim Palace and the Cotswolds Blenheim Palace is one of Britain's most famous historic landmarks. After a guided tour of the Cotswolds, an area of outstanding natural beauty and picturesque villages in rural England, you will visit the beautiful rooms and gardens of Blenheim. You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs. Transport will be by private coach.				DINNER		

DAY 7 Saturday 9 th August	BREAKFAST (Sign up in advance)	Weekend 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: • London • Cambridge • Bath • The Cotswolds • Blenheim Palace • Stonehenge • Brighton 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.		
DAY 8 Sunday 10 th August	BREAKFAST (sign up in advance)	Weekend Free time (as above). Breakfast and dinner are offered on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday (day 4) at the latest.	DINNER (Sign up in advance)	Free time

WEEK TWO							
DAY 9	09:00 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	11:00 – 12:30	LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00	DINNER	EVENING
Monday 11 th August	Academic Debating Skills - Expressing your opinion and comments - Dis/agreeing - Asking for/giving opinions - Language of persuasion - Turn-taking - Rhetorical questions		Mini Debate Work in teams to improve your intonation and practise your negotiation skills. You will also improve your confidence in public speaking.		Current Business Issues in the UK and EU Examine the latest trends in the UK and its relationship with Europe and the wider world.		Cultural Activities with RAs
DAY 10	09:00 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	11:00 – 12:30	LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00	DINNER	EVENING
Tuesday 12 th August	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.		Youth Language, Slang and Idioms Learn how social factors have shaped the language used by young people.		Phonology Session - Connected speech in natural English - Noticing and practising assimilation and elision - Intonation as a reflection of politeness		Cultural activities with RAs

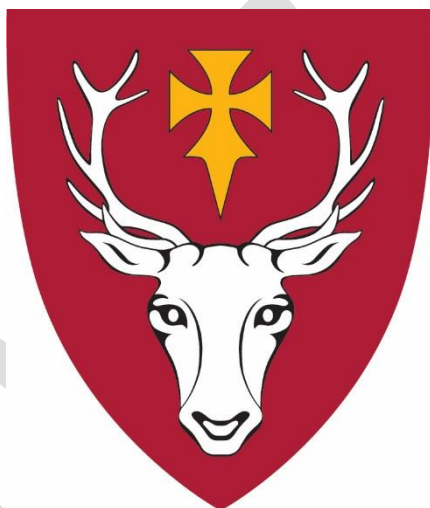
DAY 11 Wednesday 13 th August	09:00 – 12:30			LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs
	Collaborative Writing Activity Students work together to create an effective text. Explore the world of poetic forms including concrete poems and haiku.				Current Political Issues in the UK An introduction to the British political system, its main parties and the challenges facing the countries in the 21 st century.		
DAY 12 Thursday 14 th August	Study of a Literary Icon – William Shakespeare An introduction to the life, language and works of England’s most famous dramatist.	TEA BREAK	Vocabulary Development A session on the rich idiomatic expressions created by Shakespeare in current use.	LUNCH	Introduction to Stratford upon Avon Prepare for Friday’s study visit. Discover the beautiful historic town of Stratford upon Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs

DAY 13 Friday 15 th August	Study Tour – Stratford upon Avon Stratford is both the birthplace and burial place of William Shakespeare. In Stratford, you can visit the cottage of Shakespeare’s wife, Anne Hathaway, as well as the birthplace of Shakespeare himself. You may also wish to see the school where he was educated and visit his tomb in Holy Trinity Church: a fee is charged to visit the tomb. In Stratford, you can also see the theatres used by the Royal Shakespeare Company. You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs. Transport will be by private coach.	DINNER	Cultural activities with RAs	
DAY 14 Saturday 16 th August	Weekend Free time (as explained on day 7). Breakfast is offered on this day, but you must sign up in advance with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.			
DAY 15 Sunday 17 th August	Weekend Free time (as above). Breakfast and dinner are offered on this day, but you must sign up for them with your RAs by Wednesday at the latest.			

WEEK THREE						
DAY 16	09:00 – 10:30		11:00 – 12:30		14:00 – 16:00	EVENING
Monday 18 th August	Current Affairs The language of journalism - an exploration of daily publications and their journalistic influence on society.	TEA BREAK	Current Social Issues in the UK An overview of the current challenges facing the country and its people.	LUNCH	History of Modern Pop Music Chart the rise of pop music in the UK and discuss its influence on society, from the 1950s to the present day.	Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 17						
Tuesday 19 th August	Literature, Folklore and the Arts Britain has a long and rich literary and artistic heritage. Discover how Britain's geography, history and society have shaped and influenced its culture and artists.			LUNCH	Academic Proposal or Personal Statement and Effective Interview Techniques - Learn how to create maximum impact and increase your chances of success. - Look at how to make a strong impression during an academic or professional interview.	Cultural activities with RAs

DAY 18 Wednesday 20 th August	09:00 – 10:30	TEA BREAK	11:00 – 12:30	LUNCH	14:00 – 16:00	DINNER	EVENING
	The British Film Industry Find out about Britain's rich cinematic history from the earliest silent movies to the magic of the Harry Potter films.		Presentations Workshop 2 • Fine-tuning of presentations • Emphatic language • Handling questions • Intonation and sentence/word stress • Connecting with your audience		Global English Explore the differences in vocabulary and pronunciation of English from different parts of the world.		Cultural activities with RAs
DAY 19 Thursday 21 st August	End of Programme Presentations Students deliver presentations in small groups before an audience. Each presentation will be followed by a Q and A session.	TEA BREAK	End of Programme Presentations (continued)	LUNCH	Presentation feedback and end of course assessment	GALA DINNER Celebrate your success at a memorable candle-lit dinner in the historic dining hall at Hertford College where you will be presented with a certificate at the end-of-course ceremony. This is a special event so please wear smart clothes!	

DAY 20 Friday 22 nd August	BREAKFAST	Free Day Free time (as explained on day 7). Please note that breakfast is the only meal you are entitled to on this day.
DAY 21 Saturday 23 rd August	BREAKFAST	Departure Day You will need to check out of your room in Hertford College by 10am!



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