Hertford College
OXFORD



August Open Enrolment

At Hertford College, Oxford

Advanced English Language and British Culture
Three Week Programme

SUMMER 2027

An Introduction to Hertford College Summer 2027

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 1st 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 in Oxford • On arrival: meal and welcome information						
WEEK ONE							
DAY 2 Monday 2nd August	**08:30-10:00** **Introduction to the Advanced English Language and British Culture Programme** **English Language Assessment** Students complete a placement test.	TEA BREAK	**10:30-12:00** **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.	LUNCH	**13:30-15:30** **Welcome Tea at 2.45pm** Sample a delicious, traditional cream tea in the splendid surroundings of Hertford College's historic dining hall. This is a special, formal event, so we encourage students to dress up.	DINNER	**EVENING** **Cultural Activities with RAs**

DAY 3 Tuesday 3rd August	08:30-10:00	TEA BREAK	10:30-12:00	LUNCH	13:30-15:30	DINNER	EVENING
	Aspects of Oxford Presentations by students based on the pre-programme task. Each mini presentation will be followed by a Q and A session.		**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.		**Tour of Discovery** A self-guided exploration of the hidden corners of Oxford to help you become familiar with this fascinating city.		**Cultural Activities with RAs**
DAY 4 Wednesday 4th 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	**The Monarchy** Explore how England's monarchs have shaped society and culture, and how their influence still resonates today.	LUNCH	**Presentations Workshop 1** • An introduction to student presentations • How to plan and deliver a presentation effectively	DINNER	**Cultural Activities with RAs**

DAY 5 Thursday 5th August	**08:30-10:00**	TEA BREAK	**10:30-12:00**	LUNCH	**13:30-15:30**	DINNER	**Cultural activities with RAs**
	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.		**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.		**'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.		
DAY 6 Friday 6th 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.						

DAY 7 Saturday 7th 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 8th 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)

WEEK TWO							
DAY 9 Monday 9th August	**08:30-10:00**	TEA BREAK	**10:30-12:00**	LUNCH	**13:30-15:30**	DINNER	**EVENING**
	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 Tuesday 10th August	**Contemporary Youth Culture** Examine the history and present-day attitudes in the UK. This session focuses on the history of youth culture, sub-cultures and the impact of fashion, music, and slang on the country.	TEA BREAK	**Youth Language, Slang and Idioms** Learn about, and practise, current UK slang whilst learning about its cultural and social history.	LUNCH	**Phonology Session** • Connected speech in natural English • Noticing and practising assimilation and elision • Intonation as a reflection of politeness	DINNER	**Cultural activities with RAs**

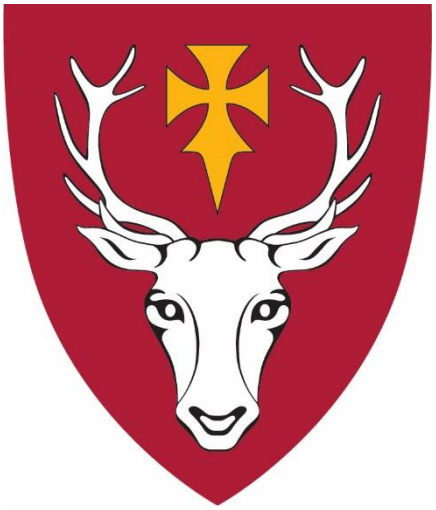
DAY 11 Wednesday 11th August	**08:30 – 12:00** **Collaborative Writing Activity** Students work together to create an effective text. Explore the world of poetic forms including concrete poems, flash fiction and haikus.			LUNCH	**13:30-15:30** **Introduction to Bath** Prepare for Friday's study visit. Discover the beautiful historic town of Bath, famous for its Roman and Georgian architecture and literary associations.	DINNER	**Cultural activities with RAs**
DAY 12 Thursday 12th 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	**Current Political Issues in the UK** An introduction to the British political system, its main parties and the challenges facing the countries in the 21st century.	DINNER	**Cultural activities with RAs**
DAY 13 Friday 13th August	**Study Tour: Bath** Explore the ancient city of Bath. You will visit the Roman Baths. Enjoy a walking tour where you will see the stunning Georgian architecture around the city. Highlights include Pulteney Bridge, Bath Abbey, the Circus, Royal Crescent, and the Roman Baths. Visit the settings that inspired some of Jane Austen's greatest works and if you wish, try a famous Sally Lunn bun! You will be accompanied and guided by the RAs. Transport will be by private coach.						

DAY 14 Saturday 14th August	BREAKFAST (Sing up in advance)	**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 15th August	BREAKFAST (Sing 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 at the latest.	DINNER (Sign up in advance)

WEEK THREE							
DAY 16 Monday 16th August	**08:30-10:00**	TEA BREAK	**10:30-12:00**	LUNCH	**13:30-15:30**	DINNER	**EVENING**
	Current Affairs The language of journalism - an exploration of daily publications and their journalistic influence on society.		**Current Social Issues in the UK** An overview of the current challenges facing the country and its people.		**Sustainability and Climate Action in the UK** Look at how the UK is responding to environmental challenges and how young people are involved.		**Cultural activities with RAs**
DAY 17 Tuesday 17th 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	**Global English** Explore the differences in vocabulary and pronunciation of English from different parts of the world.	DINNER	**Cultural activities with RAs**

DAY 18 Wednesday 18th August	08:30-10:00	TEA BREAK	10:30-12:00	LUNCH	13:30-15:30	DINNER	EVENING
	Advanced Social English Colloquial English and successful interaction: how to be 'spontaneous' in your conversation.		**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		**Presentations Workshop 2** • Fine-tuning of presentations • Emphatic language • Handling questions • Intonation and sentence/word stress • Connecting with your audience		**Cultural activities with RAs**
DAY 19 Thursday 19th 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 and formal event, so we encourage students to dress up.

DAY 20 Friday 20th August	**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 21st August	**Departure Day** You will need to check out of your room in Hertford College by 10am!



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