



OXFORD  
INTERNATIONAL  
COLLEGE



# OXFORD INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

**O**xford International College is a small, private tutorial college based in the heart of the historic university city of Oxford. We deliver GCSE and A-level courses which prepare students for entry to British universities or other higher education institutions. For international students we offer special courses to help them adapt more successfully to studying in the United Kingdom.

The College was founded by a team of experienced educationalists, including academics from the University of Oxford. It is committed to providing the highest standards of education and care.



At Oxford International College we offer a highly individual approach to education for students seeking an alternative to the traditional methods of schooling. Teaching is based on the tutorial system employed by Oxford and Cambridge Universities, with tuition taking place on a one-to-one basis, or in mini-groups (maximum 4) combined with individual tuition. This allows our tutors to gear lessons to the particular needs of each individual student.



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# The Tutorial System

Many students have their educational needs met by conventional schooling, involving classes of up to 20 pupils or more. However, a significant and growing number are unable to fulfill their academic potential in this way. At Oxford International College we offer a highly personal approach to learning, which focuses on the individual needs of each student.

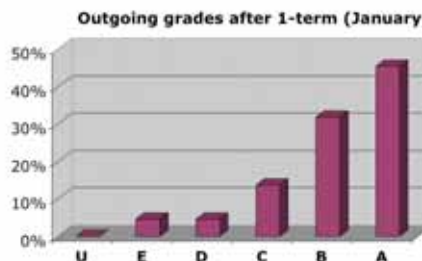
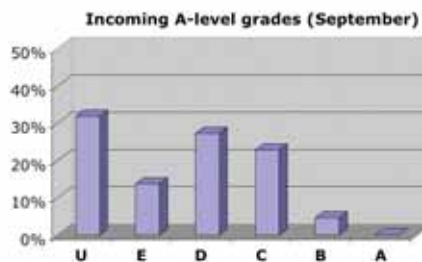
Many of our students have under-performed at school and transfer to us to complete or retake their A-levels before progressing to university. Others are aiming to attend one of Britain's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and come to us for the additional intellectual challenge that their schools are unable to provide.

Our unique tuition model allows the pace of teaching to be geared exactly to the student's needs. Teaching either just one-to-one, or a combination of mini-groups and one-to-one, promotes greater participation by students, who are encouraged to venture answers and ideas which they might not have had the confidence to voice in a conventional classroom setting. Confidence is essential for learning, and the tutorials are often highly interactive, with students required to present or explain ideas back to their tutors.

Our teaching methods are ideal for international students who may arrive in the UK with a diverse range of language and educational backgrounds. It is therefore extremely difficult, and rarely effective, to meet their individual needs in conventional classrooms or large groups. Many of our international students have transferred to Oxford International College from other institutions where they have been unsuccessfully taught in groups with British and other foreign nationals.

Excellent integration between British and international students is achieved through social activities and in the daily life of the College.

To illustrate the effectiveness of our teaching methods, the graphs below show the grade improvements achieved by students who re-sat their A-level exams after studying at Oxford International College for a single 14-week term, from September to January.



*“Coming to OIC was definitely the best decision; the tutors were excellent and the College was very caring, encouraging and supportive. I'm glad I came here”*

Natasha



# Course Structure

Individual and mini-group tuition is an effective form of teaching, not least because the student is engaged and concentrating for the full duration of the tutorial. This is a far cry from the drifting attention that is often to be found in large school classes. For this reason our students do not require as many hours of direct contact time with their tutor as would be the case at school.

## Standard Programmes

Our standard A-level and GCSE programmes offer up to 36 hours of time-tabled study per week, including individual or mini-group tuition, plus monitored independent study in the College study room, in which students undertake written work, projects or research as prescribed by their tutors, with occasional guidance and assistance from College staff as required. The independent study periods form a vital part of the student's working routine, and provide excellent preparation for the type of study that they will meet at university.

## Intensive Programmes

We also offer more intensive study programmes which include greater contact time with our tutors, for those who require additional support. For instance:

- students who have experienced disruptions or difficulties in their education and need to make up lost ground
- students beginning a course later in the academic year
- students wishing to complete a course in less than the usual time
- overseas students who have a weaker background in the subjects they wish to study.

Students may begin with an intensive programme and revert to a standard programme later during their studies.

A typical timetable for a standard three A-level programme

	9-10 am	10-11 am	11-12 am	12-1 pm	1-2 pm	2-3 pm	3-4 pm	4-5 pm	5-6 pm
Mon	Maths	Maths	Maths	Chemistry	Lunch	Chemistry	Chemistry	Business Studies	Business Studies
Tue	Business Studies	Maths	Business Studies	Lunch	Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry	Business Studies	
Wed	Maths	Maths	Chemistry	Lunch	Chemistry	Chemistry	Business Studies	Business Studies	
Thu	Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Lunch	Maths	Maths	Maths	Chemistry	
Fri	Chemistry	Chemistry	Maths	Lunch	Maths	Maths	Business Studies	Business Studies	

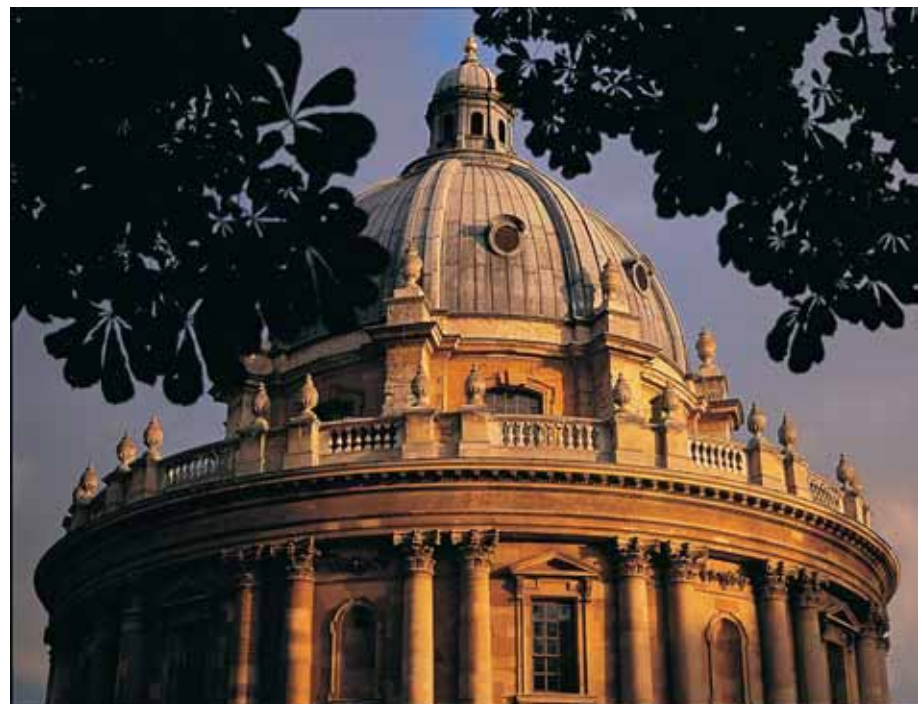
Tutorial       Independent study period

## Part-time Programmes

Most of our students enrol on a full-time basis. Some students, however, need different study patterns - perhaps to fit around a work experience programme, regular employment, or to supplement their study at another school during evenings or weekends.

With the option of individual tuition we can offer a totally flexible programme to meet any specific needs.

Our College staff will always advise students, parents or guardians as to the most suitable study programme, following an assessment of each student's background and academic requirements.



# Qualifications and Examinations

## A-level

The A-level (General Certificate of Education Advanced Level) is the gold standard of the British secondary education system. It is the usual and preferred entrance qualification of all British universities. The A-level is now divided into two parts: AS (Advanced Subsidiary) exams are usually taken at the end of the first year, followed by A2 exams at the end of the second. All subjects consist of six modules, three each at AS and A2 level. Students normally take three or four A-level subjects over two years.

## GCSE

The GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) is the national qualification taken prior to A-levels. Students usually take five or six GCSE subjects per year.

## IGCSE & International A-level

These qualifications are available worldwide and are transferable between centres and countries, allowing students to continue their home country education in the UK.

## IELTS

For students whose mother tongue is other than English, British universities require evidence of proficiency in English. Their preferred option is IELTS (the International English Language Testing System), which measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking. We offer IELTS courses on a full-time or part-time basis (see page 9).

*“I came to OIC with grades C and D in Biology and Chemistry A-levels, thinking that my dream of becoming a doctor was over. I enrolled for the 1-term retake course and achieved grades A and B, including 100% in one of my Biology modules! In just one term my brilliant tutors got me through the work and taught me how to be an A-grade student. I can hardly believe that I have now been accepted at medical school, my dream come true. Thank you OIC!”*

Jon



## Examinations

Oxford International College is a registered examination centre for all of the English examining boards (AQA, Edexcel and OCR), as well as Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). This enables students who transfer to us from other schools to continue with the same syllabus that they are familiar with.

**A-level exams** are usually taken in May/June. All AS and some A2 modules are also available in January.

**GCSE exams** are usually taken in May/June, with some available in November.

**IGCSE and International A-level exams** can be taken in May/June and October/November.

**IELTS exams** are available once or twice a month throughout the year.



# Study Programmes

## Two-Year Programme (6 terms)

This is the normal option for students joining Oxford International College to begin their full-time A-level or GCSE studies. A-level students normally take three or four AS subjects in the first year, and three A2s in the second. Academically strong students may take four A2 subjects. GCSE students normally take 8 to 12 GCSEs over two years.

## One-Year Programme (3 terms)

This programme is usually taken by students wishing to re-take some or all of their A-level or GCSE exams. It is ideal for the following types of student:

- A-level students who have completed their exams at a previous school and who wish to re-take some or all modules in order to improve their overall grades
- AS students who have completed their AS level exams with disappointing results, but who do not wish to retake the entire AS year. In this case students can transfer to Oxford International College with the aim of completing their AS retakes in January, and the A2 exams in the May/June of the same year
- GCSE students who wish to take up to six subjects, either as re-takes or for the first time

In exceptional cases, mature A-level students or students with particularly strong academic backgrounds may be able to complete both AS and A2 examinations in a single year, depending on the subjects studied. Oxford International College will advise suitable students of this option, following their initial assessment or interview.



## 18-month Programme (5 terms)

We also offer 18-month A-level and GCSE programmes, beginning in January and ending in June of the following year. This option is suited to students who have made a 'false start' to their studies at a previous school, for example due to the wrong subject choices or other difficulties at school. The 18-month programme is also ideal for international students whose high school exams are taken later in the year, and who are therefore unable to begin their studies with us in September.

## One-term Retake

The one-term A-level retake programme usually runs from September, with exams in January, but it is also available from January, with exams in May/June. It is primarily for students who have failed to achieve the required A-level grades to gain access to their chosen university course.

Students may retake any combination of AS and A2 units permitted by the examination boards. One advantage of the one-term retake course is that students can still benefit from up to eight months of a gap year.

*“At my previous school, I obtained 3 D grades at A-level. After 1 year at OIC I managed to get ABB. The ideal nature of one-to-one tuition or teaching in small groups means students are not intimidated to ask a question which they might not have the confidence to ask in a larger classroom situation. Not only can I say that I got a good education, I also had a fantastic time as well! Overall, coming to OIC was the best decision I ever made.”*

James

## Subjects Available



### Subjects Available

The following subjects are available on our full-time A-level and GCSE courses:

Accounting	French*	Music
Ancient History	Further Mathematics	Law
Arabic*	General Studies	Latin
Archaeology	Geography	Philosophy
Art and Design	Geology	Physics
Bengali*	German*	Polish*
Biology	Greek*	Portuguese*
Chemistry	Hebrew*	Psychology
Chinese*	History	Punjabi*
Computing	History of Art	Religious Studies
Classical Civilization	Human Biology	Russian*
Classical Greek	Information Technology	Sociology
Design & Technology	Italian*	Spanish*
Economics	Japanese*	Statistics
Electronics	Mathematics	Turkish*
English Language & Literature	Media Studies	Urdu*

\* Students fluent in these languages have the opportunity of taking the subjects with little or no tuition, and these may be valid as entrance qualifications when applying to British universities.

Because of the system of individual and mini-group tuition offered by Oxford International College, we do not experience any of the timetable clashes that sometimes occur in schools. Students can therefore choose freely from the list of subjects, without any constraints on subject combinations. Students unsure about subject choices will be guided by our academic advisors.

*“OIC has given me more than just a brilliant education. The endless support and encouragement from the staff and tutors that I have received is worth more than any amount of money. I have become a confident, independent learner which is something that I never believed I could be before I became a student at OIC”*

Anuka

# Holiday Courses



St Edward's School, Oxford, venue for our holiday revision courses

## A Typical Revision Course Day

8.00 am - 9.00am	Breakfast
9.00 am - 9.50 am	Subject Tutorial 1
9.50 am - 10.40 am	Exam practice worksheet 1
10.40 am - 11.00 am	Morning Coffee
11.00 am - 11.50 am	Subject Tutorial 2
11.50 am - 12.40 pm	Exam practice worksheet 2
12.40 pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm - 2.50 pm	Subject Tutorial 3
2.50 pm - 3.40 pm	Exam practice worksheet 3
3.40 pm - 4.00 pm	Afternoon tea
4.00 pm - 4.50 pm	Subject Tutorial 4
4.50 pm - 5.40 pm	Exam practice worksheet 4
5.40 pm - 6.30 pm	Study skills clinic
6.30 pm - 7.30 pm	Dinner
7.30 pm - 9.30 pm	Evening social events

## Holiday Revision Courses

School holidays account for up to 30 per cent of the calendar year. It is a fact of life, therefore, that many students who wish to achieve top grades in public exams need to maintain some level of academic work during their school holidays.

Students can attend up to three short revision courses during the school holidays for GCSE, A-level and the International Baccalaureate (IB), as shown below:

**Easter Revision:** up to three weeks of intensive revision in March/April to prepare students for public exams in May/June.

**Christmas Revision:** one week in December and one week in January to prepare students for public exams in January, or for general revision.

**Summer School:** up to three weeks in August to help students gain a head start

for the following school year, or to remedy any problems from the previous year.

The courses take place at one of our residential course centres in Oxford, or at one of the colleges of Oxford University. The courses provide intensive tuition in small study groups with a strong emphasis on exam technique and study skills.

Full-time GCSE or A-level students at Oxford International College who wish to remain in Oxford during the holidays have the opportunity to join our residential holiday courses at a discounted rate. This is particularly useful for students who require extra academic support, or for international students who live overseas and do not wish to travel home three times a year.

For more information on our Revision Courses, please contact Oxford International College for a separate prospectus and application form, or visit the website at [www.oxss.co.uk](http://www.oxss.co.uk).

*“Due to personal circumstances I was unable to reach my full potential in my A-levels at school, so I decided to improve my grades at OIC. Thanks to some excellent teaching and the support of all the staff, I have managed to secure a place at university to study Veterinary Science. Thanks once again to everyone at OIC.”*

Nafisa



## Other College Services

### Reports

Our tutors report to the College every week, commenting on each tutorial attended as well as all work completed between tutorials. The College will send regular progress reports to parents or designated guardians typically once every month, and a full report at the end of each term.

### Careers and UCAS

All students will receive expert careers counselling at the beginning and throughout their studies at the College, as required. For students applying to university we will provide a full UCAS application service.

### Mock Examinations

These are of the same format and length as the actual examination and take place twice a year in preparation for the public exam sessions in January and June. They serve as a full rehearsal, familiarising students with the exam environment, and they enable our tutors to give invaluable final guidance.

### Study Skills

Students may take an optional course in Study Skills which takes place once a week for six weeks of each term. The course covers:

- Time management
- Prioritizing & deadlines
- Personal study plans
- Note taking
- Essay techniques
- Concentration and breaks
- Effective use of resources
- Relaxing techniques
- Stress management
- Revision techniques

### BMAT, UKCAT & LNAT

To apply for *medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or law*, many leading UK universities now require students to take an aptitude test as part of the selection process. We offer special coaching to prepare students for these tests.

These short courses are also open to outside students who are not enrolled at the College on a full-time basis.



### Mock Interviews

Students called for university interviews, especially by Oxford or Cambridge, can receive practice interviews in the College. We are often able to enlist the help of academics from Oxford University to assist with these.

### Laboratory Practicals

Courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics normally involve laboratory work to satisfy the practical assessment component required for most science syllabuses. Practical experience is also very effective at reinforcing theoretical study, giving students a better grasp of the subject.

Laboratory sessions are therefore arranged in addition to the normal tutorials according to each student's background and experience in the relevant subject.



## Life Coaching

Achieving excellent academic qualifications for entry to a good university is the first priority for all of our students. However, students of all academic abilities often find themselves at university lacking some of the basic life skills to thrive and succeed in this new environment.

Oxford International College is one of the first, if not the first school or college in the UK to offer Life Coaching to its students. Coaching is a modern and rapidly growing method for helping people to take greater responsibility for their lives, thus improving their ability to achieve their full potential.

The focus on self-awareness and personal responsibility makes it effective for all situations, whether academic, personal or social. Coaching is different to training in that it challenges the individual to find their own answers and solutions rather than impose or impart information from without.

We offer Life Coaching seminars and workshops, led by professional coaches who come into the College to work with our students.

## Academic English

For international students whose first language is not English, we provide classes in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) leading to the IELTS qualification (see page 4). EAP classes are usually taught in small groups of up to 5, but may be taken by individual tuition if preferred. The classes run weekly throughout the term in the late afternoon or early evening to minimise interference with academic study. Students can take EAP classes until they have achieved their required IELTS test score.



We also offer IELTS classes by individual tuition as a 'stand-alone' programme for students not enrolled at the College on an academic course. This is particularly useful for students who require the IELTS qualification quickly, in which case individual tuition is a great advantage. IELTS courses are available from one-week to one-term throughout the year.



*"I came to OIC in September to take A-levels in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. I decided to come to the UK from Malaysia because I wanted to pursue my long-term goal of studying Medicine in the UK. After a year of intensive and focussed study, I am delighted to have been offered a place to read Medicine at the University of Southampton.*

*I can highly recommend the one-to-one tutorial method of teaching – it has certainly been most helpful to me. Oxford International College has really enabled me to fulfil my academic potential."*

Albert

# Living in Oxford

## The City of Oxford

The site of the oldest English-speaking university in the world, the city of Oxford has been a centre of education for more than 800 years.

The University of Oxford is one of the world's leading universities, closely associated with numerous international writers, scholars, scientists, politicians and religious leaders. Twenty-five British prime ministers were educated here, as well as five kings, 40 Nobel Prize winners, and nine current holders of the Order of Merit.

The Oxford English Dictionary, first published in 1928, consolidated Oxford's close links with the English language. The city is now a centre for learners of English at all levels.

Oxford has more than 20 museums and galleries, five theatres, and numerous cafés and restaurants. All tastes in music are catered for, from organ sonatas to hip hop, at venues throughout the city.



## Accommodation

Full time students usually live in homestay accommodation with local families in Oxford, with breakfast, a cooked evening meal and laundry services provided. All of our homestay families are carefully selected, vetted and continually monitored by the College Welfare Officer. As we have relatively small numbers of students at the College, we are able to select only high quality homestay accommodation.

Students aged 18 or over are free to arrange their own private rented accommodation, and the College is always happy to assist and offer advice.

## Student Welfare

The small size of the College enables our staff to take a direct and active interest in the needs of each individual student. An experienced Student Welfare Officer is on hand at all times, and most students also form excellent relationships with their individual subject tutors. All students are also automatically registered with a local health centre.

## Social Activities

Activities are arranged according to students' interests. Activities that can be arranged include paint-balling, go-karting, discos, quiz nights, talent shows etc, or more cultural activities such as concerts, theatre and museums. Day trips

can be organised to London, Stratford, and other places of interest, plus theme parks such as Alton Towers or Thorpe Park.

Oxford International College students are eligible to join the renowned Oxford University Union to use its facilities, attend debates and hear world famous speakers. Speakers in the past have included Michael Jackson, Bill Clinton and the Dalai Llama.

## Sports

The first thing many of our students do is to join a state-of-the-art private gym just a short walk from the College. The list of sporting opportunities available to students in Oxford is almost endless and includes aerobics, athletics, badminton, cycling, football, ice-skating, rowing, squash, swimming, tennis, and various martial arts, to name but a few. We encourage students to pursue at least one activity.

*"OIC was without a doubt the place for me. Last September, I was 'lost'. I was most disappointed with my results last August. I found OIC and instantly I knew that it was for me. In six months, the tutors taught me two full A-levels. Now I feel so confident about Physics and Chemistry. I shall not forget my experience here. I would recommend OIC to anyone and everyone!"*

Richard

## Faculty List

**Dr Mario Peters** BSc, MSc, DPhil  
*Principal*

Dr Peters has degrees from the Universities of London, Edinburgh, and Oxford. His early career was as a research scientist at Oxford, where he worked in the field of space technology, developing scientific instruments for NASA space missions. Dr Peters co-founded Oxford International College, providing educational courses and services to students seeking admission to top British universities. He is also involved in pioneering educational projects in the UK and overseas.

**Renata Calverley** BA (Hons), PGCE  
*Director of English Literature*

Renata Calverley has had over 30 years experience of teaching in both the private and state educational sectors, in schools with high academic reputations and with an emphasis on preparing 16-18 year old students for their final exams and university entrance.

**Matthew Barnes** MA (Oxon), MSc  
*Director of Biological Sciences*

Matthew Barnes has degrees from Oxford, London, and Reading Universities. After working in Africa, the Far East, and the Caribbean he returned to Oxford in 1989 where he worked as a freelance tutor and Head of Biology at Oxford's oldest tutorial college before joining Oxford International College.

**Dr Alexis Lansbury** PhD  
*Director of Mathematics and Physics*

Dr. Lansbury is a mathematical physicist with an extensive research background in both the UK and the USA. Her research interests range from non-linear dynamics and chaos to naval architecture. In addition to her research, Alexis has lectured in mathematics at London University (Birkbeck College and UCL) and Brunel University. She was instrumental in developing innovative teaching methods for mathematics and science in the university sector including designing continuing education A-level modules.

**Dr Douglas McDermott** DPhil  
*Director of Chemical Sciences*

Dr McDermott obtained his degree and doctorate in Chemistry from Oxford University and worked as a research scientist at Oxford before establishing himself as Oxford's premier private tutor in Chemistry.

**Dr Martin Meenagh** DPhil  
*Director of Social Sciences*

Dr Meenagh obtained his doctorate in History from Oxford University and has tutored at several Oxford colleges. He is now a full time tutor in History, Politics, and Economics. He was Head of History and Politics at the Tuition Centre, London, and a contributor to the Oxford Dictionary of Twentieth Century History and Europe.

**Dr Tim Pound** DPhil  
*Curriculum Development Director*

Dr Pound obtained his doctorate in Educational Studies from Oxford University. He taught English for a number of years in sixth-form colleges before moving to Oxford to begin research in the field of post-compulsory education. He has been a university lecturer for the last eight years, and his publications include articles on A-levels and the 16-19 curriculum. He has recently been involved in a research project examining the teaching of English literature in schools across the European Union, and has co-edited a book on the baccalaureate as a potential model for reforming the 14-19 curriculum in England.

**George Taylor** BA (Oxon), MA  
*Director of English Language*

George Taylor was educated at Lincoln College, Oxford, and Cornell University, New York. He has over 30 years' teaching experience, gained all over the world, including posts at the Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College in Brunei, Basingstoke College of Technology, Redhill College of further Education, and the West London College in the UK.

**Ken Jones** OBE

*Director of International Projects*

Ken Jones has 27 years experience as a school Head Teacher and 4 years experience of supervising the work of English volunteers working in Chinese Middle Schools. In 2000 he was honoured by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth with the award of an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to education in the UK.

**Dr Jim Williamson** DPhil

*Director of University Programmes*

Dr Williamson studied at University College, Oxford. Since 1968 he has been a university lecturer in Physics, and a fellow of St Cross College, Oxford since 1970. His research has been concerned with various aspects of Atmospheric Physics, and he is currently Chairman of Physics Final Examiners at Oxford University.

**Carl Meaney** BA, MA

*Director of Business and Economics*

Carl Meaney, a former Stockbroker and Business Consultant, read Economics and Sociology, and then Economic History at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada. He has taught at Oxford, McMaster University, Mercy College, Detroit, and the University of California at San Diego.



## Reservations

### Making a Reservation

To book a place on any course, please complete the application form included in the pocket opposite and return to Oxford International College with a deposit of fees as indicated.

Oxford International College will confirm your booking as soon as possible. If a course is full or unavailable for any reason, your deposit will be refunded immediately.

Once you have been accepted for a course, you will be sent a welcome pack, which contains details of how to get to the College, what you will need to bring with you, etc. If arriving from outside the UK, the College can arrange travel to Oxford from your arrival point in the UK on request.

### Term Dates and Fees

Our term dates and course fees are listed in the supplement included in the pocket opposite.

Students who are unable to begin their course on the published term dates may join the College for a programme of individual tuition at any time during the year by arrangement.

Please contact the College for further information on any matter.

If the pocket opposite does not contain a supplement and application form, please contact the College or visit our website at [www.oxcoll.com](http://www.oxcoll.com) for replacements.

### Contact Details

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OX1 1BY

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**Website:** [www.oxcoll.com](http://www.oxcoll.com)

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*I look forward to welcoming you to Oxford International College*

Dr Mario Peters  
Principal



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