



THE ALTERNATIVE



OXFORD GEOGRAPHY



PROSPECTUS



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Welcome to the Alternative Prospectus!

Foreword from the Geography Society President

This is the 2nd edition of the Alternative Prospectus for Oxford Geography, and our message remains the same - Oxford is a fantastic place to study Geography. With the Oxford tutorial system, Oxford Geography provides intimate, supported discussion with world-leading tutors on the issues of the day. Whether you're passionate about the environment, migration, geopolitics, or landslides, you'll find yourself continually pushed to develop your ideas here. I have no doubt that this has had an impact on our #1 QS World Ranking for 4 years running (sorry Cambridge).

With a year group of around 80 people, studying Geography at Oxford is different to most subjects. Through the classic Geography trip to Swanage in the first month of the course, you'll get the chance to meet and know almost everyone in your year, something that few other Geography courses can offer. Through events run by the Oxford Geography Society, this tight-knit community stays active throughout the 3 year degree.

We appreciate it's difficult to get the feel for a degree course through the content produced by a University. It can often feel like you're being sold a product, rather than finding out what life is really like. Everything in this Prospectus is written by students, in their own words. We hope this gives an overview of what life in Oxford Geography is like.

Through the 40-odd pages, you'll find information about all of Oxford life - the course content, extracurricular activities, and life outside study. Oxford is so much more than just a degree, and we hope the Prospectus shows a balance of the University has to offer.

If you have any questions at all about the course, or University life, please do not hesitate to contact us!



Benedict Gardner

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President

Oxford Geography Society

YEAR 1 - PRELIMS

Human

Human Geography isn't quite what you'll be used to from A level/IB. You won't find any mention of the Three Gorges Dam and how it produces 10% of

China's energy here! Human Geography at Oxford covers a range of topics from Cultural Geography, which looks the way people view landscapes and place; to Political Geography, considering how Cold War legacies influence contemporary spaces of war; to Economic Geography, studying how capital operates at a global scale.

If this sounds quite wide-reaching, that's because it is. The great thing about the Human Geography course is that it is thematic - you'll learn about 'Place' or 'Landscape', but within this theme you can research anything you like. In an essay about Place you could take a feminist reading of gender-neutral toilets, analysing how breaking down gender norms challenges traditional ideas of place. Alternatively, you could take a Marxist reading of how globalisation destroys our familiarity with place, contributing to recent phenomena such as the presidential election of Trump and Catalonian secessionism. If you're more politically motivated, you could consider the role of place in contemporary migration policy, or even investigate how place studies help us to understand the geographies of drone warfare.



Physical

The physical part of the course – Earth Systems Processes – is split into three sections: Geomorphology, Ecology and Climatology.

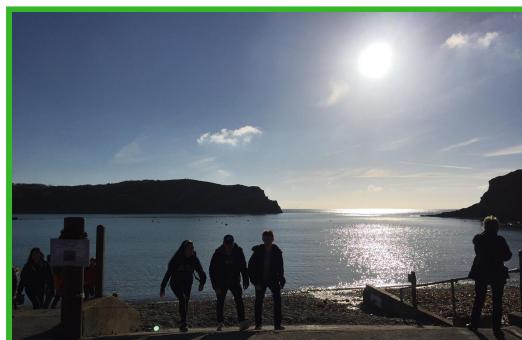
Starting the year with geomorphology is quite nice, because it essentially combines all of the physical environments (eg rivers/coasts/deserts) studied previously, but places much greater emphasis on the processes responsible for driving landscape change, as well as the interactions between these processes.

The ecology module examines factors controlling species' ranges, how communities of organisms evolve and global patterns of biodiversity. As most school syllabuses do not cover ecology, it provides a great insight into the discipline.

Finally, climatology explores the ways in which energy is redistributed by the atmosphere – whilst parts of this may seem challenging, the course starts with the basics, making it accessible for those who haven't studied climate before.

By being such a broad course, there is something for (almost) everyone.

Zachary, 1st year, St. Catherine's



Benedict, 1st Year, St John's College

Techniques

Geographical Techniques is made up of three sections: physical methods, human methods and statistics for geographers. The statistics is really nothing to worry about – the focus is much more on how these tools could be employed to explore geographical data, rather than remembering long-winded formulae. The physical methods section gives an introduction to the techniques used in researching each of the three areas of the Physical Geography section (geomorphology, ecology and climatology), whilst human methods consider the role of qualitative approaches in informing research, including interviews, ethnography and visual analysis. The course is extremely helpful in understanding many of the readings for other sections of the first-year course, and lectures are supplemented by practical sessions to make material more engaging. Plus, the fieldwork – a highlight of the first year – is great for putting this stuff into practice!

Zachary, 2nd Year, St. Catherine's



Controversies

At the surface, Geographical Controversies seems like an investigation of a series of interesting controversial case studies – highlights include the legality and ethics of drone warfare, the academic texts that have contributed to modern Islamophobia, and whether we should be able to patent biological organisms.

However, Controversies is really about looking at the mechanics of Geography and Science as a whole – asking questions such as: what is proof? What is knowledge? Who should own knowledge? If you're into Philosophy, you're in luck with Controversies. If not, you can stick to political interpretations of controversies – looking at whether drone warfare represents an infringement of national sovereignty, or whether patenting plants represents a worrying or comforting privatisation of natural resources.



Controversies consists of one exam paper, answering three questions – two about the lecture content, one on a book you read in your own time. You also get the chance to present and write on one of a set list of topics,. Don't be put off by this, you're not graded on your presentation and it's a nice change of scene from weekly essays.

Benedict, 2nd Year, St John's College

YEAR 2 -FHS

SPS

Space, Place and Society (SPS) covers a variety of key concepts in human geography but studies them with a more critical lens than first year. The key debates within human geography are assessed, and the key figures in these debates are highlighted. The broad themes covered are historical, political, social, economic and cultural, and I have broadly split what we study into colonialism, the state, consumption, social difference, economic policies and 'the digital'.

Studying colonialism involves investigating how it continues in current development policies and geopolitical circles, which links to studying the importance of the concepts of the state, territory, and sovereignty, which involves investigating the definitions of these terms and their social and political implications.

Patterns of consumption are analysed from a cultural geography perspective, involving investigating how consumption has changed over time and the implications of this. Social difference is investigated, in terms of how people are defined by society and the cultural expectations associated with axes of difference. Study of economic policies involves investigating the concept of neoliberalism, and the implications of economic policies on society. Study of 'the digital' investigates the rapid rise digital media and infrastructure and the implications for society. This course investigates a wide range of concepts, geographical theories and geographical thinkers.

Lucy, 2nd Year, St. Catherine's

ESD

Earth Systems Dynamics (ESD) covers the basic concepts of physical geography and analyses them in more depth than first year. It can be split into 'how we know what we know', climate, biogeography, the Anthropocene, and long term landscape change.

Studying 'how we know what we know' essentially involves an assessment of the evidence we use to determine past climates, such as pollen and ice cores, and the accuracy of these sources of evidence. The climate element of the course covers the history of the Earth's climatic change and anthropogenic climate change. Study of the history of the Earth's climatic change involves investigating how the multiple forces operating on multiple scales affecting Earth's climate intersect.

Study of anthropogenic climate change focuses on what the climate could be in the future, how we could alter this trajectory, and how we measure climate change using models. The biogeography element of the course investigates biogeographical distribution of species and how this has changed over Earth's history. Long term landscape change involves analysis of how particular landscapes, such as deserts, have been created, through sediment system processes.

Study of the Anthropocene investigates how humans have altered Earth's climate, biogeography, and landscapes, and also focuses on debates surrounding the Anthropocene as a concept. This course is very broad in terms of the concepts covered and questions posed.

Lucy, 2nd Year, St Catherine's

EG

Environmental Geography bridges the divide between Human and Physical Geography, teaching us that you need to consider both the environmental science and the very human lives people live when considering the environment. Lectures are as diverse as desertification, nature in urban spaces, and environmental economics, so there's something of interest for almost any Geographer. What I love about Environmental Geography is how it presents and complicates what we think of as simple environmental problems. One good example is conservation, which may seem like an overwhelmingly positive pursuit, but is often complicated if local people don't benefit, or conservation addresses the wrong areas for the wrong reasons. For those who are philosophically minded, we explore and discuss the meaning of Nature and the Environment, which is definitely not as simple as it might first appear!

The course is taught in 2nd year, and contains 16 lectures, each led by a leading expert in the field. Your college tutors will also set tutorial essays on the content, where you can really explore these problems in-depth. Any Geographer interested in environmental issues will greatly appreciate the debate, nuance and challenges presented by EG.

Benedict, 2nd Year, St John's

GT

Geographical Thought (GT) is taught in the final term of second year and is the only compulsory topic that you will study. Much of the content in this course underpins the other stuff you learn here - delving into the key conceptual and philosophical ideas that are integral to the discipline of Geography. GT covers both human and physical aspects of Geography, seeking to understand the aims, histories, philosophies and practices that act as a framework to geographical thinking. For me, the wide scope of ideas explored in the course (from discussions of the Scientific Method to the role of imperialism in the discipline) was extremely fascinating - certainly helping to link seemingly disparate geographical topics together.

Molly, 3rd Year, St Edmund Hall



YEAR 3

In 3rd year, you study the remaining two of your option choices, one in each term, and produce an extended essay for each. There's lots of choice of what to write about, my essay topics ranged from the conservation status of wolves in the USA to evidence for early human impacts on climate. Alongside this you write up your dissertation, having done your data collection over the summer holiday. There are exams at the end of the year, but colleges organise plenty of revision tutorials, and, as we finish in sixth week, you get to enjoy two free weeks in sunny Oxford at the end of the course (all Oxford terms are eight weeks long). 3rd year is a busy year, but there's a huge amount of freedom and flexibility in the option choices and coursework in particular, it's the best opportunity to personalise the degree to your own interests.

Elizabeth, 3rd Year, St Edmund Hall

Options

The variety of options available to choose in 2nd and 3rd year means that the course begins to really reflect your interests as you progress through your degree. As someone that leans heavily towards Human (and especially political) Geography, I chose *European Integration* and *Geography at War*, in addition to *Complexity*. That said, there are no restrictions on option combinations, so if you are primarily a human geographer but want to learn about climate change impacts, or a physical geographer with an interest in the geographies of protest, or you just like aspects of both sides of the discipline and want to mix and match, you can. Whichever you choose, by the time you finish your third option, you see overlaps between all areas of the course and can make links that follow your interests. Everything from climate change impacts to finance, from island life to the relationship between geography and warfare, and everything in between, is covered here. Another benefit of these options is that they often provide the chance to work with different tutors, lecturers and other students than you might have previously, as the lectures are in smaller groups and tutorials will often take place in colleges different to your own due to the courses being run by the department rather than your college.

Dan, 3rd Year, St Catherine's College

For an extensive list of the optional subjects offered within the course (subject to change year-on-year), please see here: geog.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/course OR google 'Oxford Geography structure'



Dissertations

Dissertations are big projects written during the summer of 2nd year and throughout 3rd year. There's often a broad range of research as people discover their specific interests. Have a look at just a couple below:

Human Dissertation

My dissertation investigated the geopolitics of place names and the construction of national and regional identities in the dispute between Greece and North Macedonia over the latter country's name. This was an intensely relevant political issue during the time of my research, with a referendum on whether to change the country's name taking place only ten days after I conducted fieldwork in North Macedonia (formerly FYR Macedonia)! The best part was, the dispute had been a stalemate for 20 years until I chose the topic, after which an agreement was signed between the two counties. Conducting interviews in both Greece and North Macedonia allowed me to learn about this issue from people deeply passionate about it, and who held considerable influence in the two governments and academic communities, as well as allowing me to immerse myself in such a live and visible controversy. This also meant that I felt that I really was contributing something to Geography, as I was researching the issue before any academic work had been published on the name-change agreement of 2018.

Dan, 3rd Year, St Catherine's College

Physical Dissertation

My undergraduate dissertation was designed to provide evidence for an ongoing legal case in the German courts. In the case, a Peruvian farmer is suing RWE, the German energy company, for a portion of the costs of protecting his home from a devastating flood which is at risk of occurring due to the melting of the Palcaraju glacier into Lake Palcacocha. The lake is now at risk of bursting onto the city of Huaraz, with 50,000 homes at risk of being washed away. For my dissertation, I developed a glacier model (specifically, a surface energy and mass balance model) in Python and used climate model data to work out how climate change has altered the rate of meltwater production from the glacier. My research showed that climate change has significantly increased the melt rate and that the lake had filled up several decades sooner than it would have done without climate change. I then developed an economic methodology for calculating the costs attributable to an individual company's emissions. My dissertation was recently requested by the farmer's lawyers for use as evidence in the court case. This summer, I will be working on a publication based on my dissertation with two professors at the University of Washington.

Rupert, 3rd Year, St Hilda's College



TRIPS

Everyone loves a good Geography field trip, and Oxford has plenty of them...

Year 1 - Swanage

The first year field trip involves spending a few days early on in your first term at Oxford along the incredible Jurassic Coast of Dorset. The whole experience was such a laugh and is the perfect opportunity to become friends with your fellow course mates - something that only a couple of other subjects end up doing as people tend to make friends through their college or extra-curricular activities. The work out there isn't too strenuous and involved monitoring sand dune process and coastal erosion. Outside of the work, yearly highlights include drinking coffee whilst sunbathing on sand dunes, volunteering to go for a swim in the sea at 11pm on your last night, wasting your money in the arcade, fossil hunting and napping on pretty nice coaches. In general, the whole week is something that you'll still be making inside jokes about even in third year and is yet another thing that makes Geography at Oxford so special.

Emily, 1st Year, St. Hilda's



Year 2 - Tenerife (Physical) or Berlin (Human)

Tenerife



Berlin



With some sun, fieldwork and a great group of people, Tenerife is definitely my best fieldwork experience in Geography so far. The scenery is incredible and you're lucky enough to have a tour of the island before you all get started on your first day out in the field.

The fieldwork project I chose involved two intensive field days and two days analysing all the moss samples collected. Despite returning drenched the first day and having walked for over 4 hours through forest terrain, I can confirm it was worth it. The views on both field days and the breaks taken to appreciate them really made up for it.

It's very much an independent field trip, so your group is in charge but you do have some level of support if it's needed. There's a broad range of projects for you to choose from but one thing they all have in common is a great group dynamic. The days might be long work wise but the location certainly goes a long way in making it worth it. A star-gazing trip and (very) enthusiastic coach singing en route at the end of the trip was a definite bonus.

Sophie, 2nd Year, St Edmund Hall

The Berlin Field Trip was one of the highlights of the course. From being taken around the city on guided tours to explore the city's cultural and historical geographies, to the socials in the evenings the trip did not disappoint!

Everyone took part in a wider range of projects, from exploring the cities historical geographies from its National-Socialist and Cold War pasts, to exploring examples of urban nature, the creative side of the 'Alternative Berlin' and the right to the city of the many refugees that now call the city their home.

You have so much freedom to explore the city in your own unique ways. The social side of the trip was also one of its highlights – one of the best parts of being a Geography student is getting to know your whole year really well, especially compared to other subjects.

On top of group activities organized by the department, we would all go out each night to explore Berlin, and its bars! It was such a good way to get to know people on your course outside of college, and to carry these friendships on after the trip!

TJ, 2nd Year, St Hilda's

CAREERS

So you've finished your degree, and are ready for the world of work - what comes next? Some people will tell you that the only careers available for Geographers is that of a professional map colourer. However, as well as this being a job we're fairly sure doesn't exist, this is a common myth surrounding Geography. It's actually a very employable subject, which can take you in all kinds of directions. We asked some recent graduates to give an idea of where a Geography degree can take you:

Ally Potter

Current location: New York, USA

Current job: Brand and Insight Consultant

Current employer: ThirtyThree

Upon leaving Oxford, I said 'bonjour' to the start of my career in the Paris office of a global PR agency. From our glass-fronted office on the banks of the Seine, I developed communications strategies for sovereign wealth funds; perfected the art of the late lunch; and learned lots of French. I seemed to do quite well at two out of the three. From there, my experience has spanned multinational companies, crafting communications on matters as wide-ranging as nuclear energy, diamonds and stately homes. Studying a diverse subject like Geography prepared me well for the agile mindset needed to write convincingly about Japanese power stations one day, and 1920s Bridal Suites the next.



I now work as a Brand and Insight Consultant for ThirtyThree, a creative agency with offices globally. My work focuses on employer brand consultancy and research, preparing campaigns that reinforce a company as an 'employer of choice'. In practice that can be complex; it calls for a mix of research, planning and creativity, as well as knowledge of things like media habits, occupational psychology and graduate marketing. The best communication blends a range of facts and opinion into something compelling and relevant. In a way, that's much like my experience of Geography at SoGE.

I've worked with organisations big and small to articulate what they stand for, as well as the 'reasons to join'. My clients include airports, law firms, insurers, charities and the military. Each day, we explore their recruitment challenges as part of the bigger social, economic and environmental picture. Gender pay gaps, job automation, Brexit, social mobility, diversity... the list of things relevant to what we do is huge. This means we often know 'a little about a lot', which has vastly improved my pub quiz performance. And like most geographers, I love to travel, so my work means a fair number of trips; whether that's visiting factories in New Mexico, conducting focus groups in Shanghai or trudging around National Trust properties near Swindon. In mid-2018, I took the opportunity (and the plunge) and moved to New York to continue my role with ThirtyThree 'across the pond'.

One memory of Oxford Geography

It was definitely the people I met that made my time at SoGE so special. Many of my lifelong friends are former Geography students, and so many of my peers have gone on to do really inspiring things with their lives and careers. It's great to be part of this network! One memory that sticks out is when I was in South Africa for my dissertation research, and overnight a pack of baboons ate all my (very expensive) temperature probes!

Emma Jones

Matriculated: 2005

Current location: London

Current job: Barrister

Current employer: Self-employed

After graduating from Oxford in 2008, I completed the Graduate Diploma in Law and then the Bar Vocational Course (now the Bar Professional Training Course), which allowed me to pursue a career in the legal profession and, more specifically, a career at the English Bar. During my legal studies, I secured a pupillage at One Essex Court, a leading set of chambers specialising in commercial disputes. Following my successful completion of pupillage in 2011, I took tenancy at One Essex Court and I have practised there ever since. My practice encompasses all aspects of commercial law, from banking to energy to civil fraud, and involves me providing advice to clients, as well as representing them in any court or arbitral proceedings where the matter is, or becomes, contentious. To date, my work has taken me to Hong Kong and Singapore and, closer to home, to the Court of Appeal on a number of occasions. Although I am still at a relatively early stage of my career at the Bar, I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in several of the most high-profile and important commercial disputes in recent years, and to have worked with some of the most intellectually-gifted lawyers in the country.



There is no doubt in my mind that my present success is a product of my time at Oxford. Like my colleagues at the Bar, my peers at Oxford were talented and hard-working, my lecturers were involved in novel and interesting areas of research, and my tutors were strong advocates of independent study and thought. I struggle to think of an environment more conducive to developing the skills and qualities that are so highly valued in my profession, and indeed in many other professions: detailed and critical analysis, sound reasoning, and clarity of written and oral argument. Without realising it at the time, every tutorial, every essay, every piece of coursework, was preparing me for life at the Bar which, thus far, has been extremely fulfilling.

One memory of Oxford Geography

An acute awareness of the environment and the issues affecting it, which are finally starting to form part of popular culture.

Ashleigh Ainsley

Current location: London, United Kingdom

Current job: Co-founder/Consultant

Current Employer: Colortech.org/Founders Intelligence

I have always been interested in the fundamental question of "Why does the world work the way it does?" Quite simply Geography was the most logical choice of a subject that enabled me to explore the many facets of that curiosity in a holistic manner.

Studying Geography enabled me to understand elements of GIS which helped shape my interest in technology, enabling me to get an internship at Google. I then wrote my dissertation and extended essays on topics related to the nexus of technology and societies. Following my internship, I opted to join a high growth UK start up for two and a half years where I was able to really get to grips with the start-up ecosystem and also work out my own value add in employment. Following that, I moved to KPMG and then a smaller consultancy before starting my own Non-profit connecting ethnic minorities to opportunities in the technology sector.



Having studied Geography enables me to evaluate the dynamics between elements of inequality and society, as well as reminds me to be reflective about my own positionality and privilege when engaging with others.

My advice for your early career: Follow your interests and passions and focus on maximising your opportunities to learn along the way.

One memory of Oxford Geography

Sat in the EU Politics module debating if there would be a feasible scenario when the UK would leave the EU – Low and behold 2 years later, Brexit happened.

Dan Evans

Current Location: London

Current job: Senior Town Planner

Current Employer: Ove Arup & Partners Ltd. (Arup)



I chose to study Geography because from an early age I was interested in the relationship between the natural environment and human activity – stemming from my childhood growing up on a working farm in rural West Midlands. I also particularly loved the diverse subject matter, and one of the best things about studying Geography at Oxford was the opportunity to cover a wide range of topics. I really enjoyed reading about climate change in the Radcliffe Science Library one week, and global social movements in the Social Science Library the next!

After graduating from Oxford, I went on to study for a Masters in Spatial Planning at UCL. I am now a town planner working for an international built environment consultancy, and work on a variety of types of project – from developing national and local planning policies, to shaping legislation, and gaining planning permission for complex developments. I have worked on projects across the UK, as well as in places such as the Channel Islands and Seychelles.

There are many similarities between Geography and town planning, such as the ability to identify interactions between human and natural forces, and an understanding of the importance of space

and place. Town planners often manage and coordinate viewpoints from a wide range of professions including ecologists, designers, transport specialists, and so on. Being able to understand how these inputs relate has been invaluable to me. Studying Geography definitely prepared me for my career, and I use the skills I developed every day.

How Oxford helps you find a job

Statistics about employment are all very well, but if YOU aren't able to find a job at the end they're ultimately meaningless. Luckily, the University-wide and department-specific careers team do great work throughout the year to help you engage with high-status employers across the country.

CareerConnect

CareerConnect is the University-wide programme for undergraduates and graduates to find jobs and internships. Oxford attracts big-name employers, so this provides an easy platform to submit your CV and apply to hundreds of diverse internships. Through the site you can also have your CV checked by a Careers expert, and stay informed of the numerous interview skills sessions run by the careers service throughout the academic year.

Sustainable Internship Programme

Read here about Olive's dissertation-inspiring (and generally inspiring) experience with a Sustainable Internship Programme opportunity:

"During an internship with a grass-roots NGO which works with communities in Northern Tanzania who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, I was invited to conduct some research which I would then be able to use in my dissertation. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, like most epidemics is gendered. Globally, 58% of people living with HIV are women and yet prevention programmes (particularly in some of the hardest-hit countries) have continually failed to address the gender power dynamics which play such a huge part in the spread of the disease. Part of this failure results from the silencing of women's voices (and particularly women of colour) as they are dismissed as 'non-experts'. My dissertation thus focussed on asking women living with HIV their perceptions of the factors which create the 'environment of risk' which heightens women's vulnerability to HIV. My research found that women perceive information dissemination, unequal relationship dynamics and men's attitudes to sex were the greatest issues in heightening women's vulnerability to HIV. Most importantly, my dissertation found that certain subgroups of women are more vulnerable than others and that programmes need to be tailor made based on a complex matrix of factors."

Olive, 3rd Year, St Hilda's

Careers Events

The Geography Department run careers events throughout the year, engaging with big industry names like KPMG, ClimateCare, Teach First and others. Geography students from Oxford go everywhere, so chances are the Careers Department have connections somewhere through our alumni network. The range of sectors represented is a testament to how applicable Geography is - simply put, all industries want Oxford Geographers!

COLLEGES

14 colleges offer Geography at Oxford. Each has their own unique flavour, so give them all a look. Below you'll find a brief idea about each college. If you're worried about how to choose a college, see the Admissions section coming up. But honestly, wherever you end up, you will swear allegiance to your college above all else. You will learn to love your college, no matter how bad they are at rowing, or how long the Latin grace is before the start of dinner. Colleges are always open for tours too, so just email the outreach team for any college and they'll be happy to arrange one for you!

Brasenose - 8 per year

Hey! I'm Eleanor, one of the first year geographers studying Geography at Brasenose College. We have had an amazing time at Oxford so far, learning so much in an environment that is both academically challenging and incredibly supportive. At Brasenose, all geographers are part of the college Geography society (aka G-Unit). We organise events throughout the year such as a dinner during Freshers Week, a pub dinner at the Head of the River in Michaelmas term (paid for by college!) and a special formal in Hilary term where we also get to meet our wonderful alumnae.



I honestly cannot speak highly enough of studying Geography at Brasenose - come along for an Open Day and hopefully you'll see that we really are the friendliest college around (completely unbiased, of course). Apply, and you never know, it could well be you writing this summary in a few years!

Eleanor, 1st Year, Brasenose

Christ Church - 6 per year

Studying Geography at Christ Church is without doubt a huge amount of fun, combining an amazing degree and college. There are usually six of us per year and we chat with the 2nd and 3rd years during our fortnightly (free) Geography lunches. Our tutors are really kind but also make sure to push you in tutorials. So if you're looking for a 'work (quite) hard, play hard' college then Christ Church is the right choice. There are also some good travel grants available if you're



looking to make the most of the long holidays.

Tom, 1st Year, Christ Church

Hertford - 10 per year

Studying Geography at Hertford is brilliant as you get access to a really wide academic scope, with tutors and fellows from across Geography. Furthermore, with one of the consistently biggest intakes, Hertford Geography offers a great community and supportive ethos. Tutors put in a lot of effort to build strong relationships between different year groups, including fun dinners and structured, but informal, advice giving sessions. Speaking to people who have already done what you're going through really helps.



Annie, 2nd Year, Hertford

"Tutors put in a lot of effort to build strong relationships between different year groups, including fun dinners and structured, but informal advice giving sessions"

Jesus - 8 per year

Jesus is a wholesome and friendly college located in the centre of town, a convenient 2 minutes from Tesco! Out of 100 students in a year, about 7 will be geographers and the fellows have a wealth of experience at the highest levels of both the college and the department. Jesus geographers love to get involved, represented in everything from college sport to the JCR Committee. We're also known for our tight sense of community with regular



curries, pub trips and strong friendships both within and across year groups. We would love to welcome you!

Laura, 2nd Year, Jesus

"We're also known for our tight sense of community with regular curries, pub trips and strong friendships both within and across year groups."

Keble - around 8 per year

Geography at Keble is different from other colleges particularly because of the number of us there are - the most recent intake had 10. This means that we really are all good friends and there is always someone to help or explain anything you are having difficulty understanding. It also means that tutorials are regularly with different people and so discussions are diverse and interesting. We have a social sciences dinner once a year with students of other subjects and a similar dinner with just the geographers and our tutors. We also have a good luck tea before prelims and finals, and a picnic to celebrate afterwards - all of this creates a really friendly atmosphere amongst all of the geographers at Keble.



Hannah, 1st Year, Keble

"At Mansfield, you get to know almost everyone across the years due to the small size" - if you're into the small college 'experience', Mansfield is for you.

Mansfield - 8 per year

Mansfield is one of the smallest undergraduate colleges, the closest college to the Geography department and is less than a ten minute walk from the centre of Oxford. It has a higher cohort of Geography students than many of the other larger colleges – taking between 6 and 8 Geography students a year. There is normally one tutorial a week (sometimes two), and you have the choice of who to pair up with for each one. At Mansfield, you get to know almost everyone

across the years due to the small size and social atmosphere, with many societies, events and formal dinners to attend.

Holly, 1st Year, Mansfield.



St Anne's - 4 per year

St Annes college is modern and friendly and so perhaps a bit different to your typical view of Oxford, or at least the view I had before coming here. This friendliness has been great when studying Geography here because you always have the support of students in older years who have already gone through what you're facing and are really eager to help. You also get to know the geographers in your own year pretty well as you spend time together, particularly on walks to lectures through University Parks - arguably the most beautiful walk to the department.

Hazel, 2nd Year, St Anne's.



St Catherine's - 8 per year

St Catherine's College (most commonly known as Catz) is the largest, friendliest and the newest college at Oxford. Life at Catz is very unique: it's modern and open architectural design lends itself to the chill and humble atmosphere that's curated here. We are the most diverse community in Oxford in all aspects – in identities, interests and experiences. Being just that little bit out of town helps to get a breather from the



OXFORD

GEOG SOC

hustle and bustle of Oxford life. Our bar is good but our Geography department is even better – we have some of the best tutors in the University and all the books you'd ever need (and in multiple copies too!). All in all, it's a fab place to be.

Maddy, 2nd year, St. Catherine's

St Edmund Hall (Teddy Hall) - 6 per year



Teddy Hall is by far one of the friendliest colleges I've experienced. Geography socials bring the years together and have left with me many a good memory. Whether it's fancy dress at formal dinner or a more formal affair, Geography at Teddy has plenty to offer. There's always something to get involved in, be that sport, art, music or more. Though you do become close with the Teddy Geography cohort, having a tutor who works at other colleges means you get to have tutorials with other colleges. It really does keep you on your toes and means you don't get too used to having the same tutorial partners.

Sophie, 3rd Year, St Edmund Hall

St Hilda's - 4 per year

Hilda's is known for its more laid-back and welcoming atmosphere and this is shown when looking at its Geography undergraduates. We're an awesome bunch of people who have managed to ensure that in every Hilda's year group most students wish they did a Geography degree instead of their own. The tutorial workload is manageable, 1-2 essays a week, and the topics we're set are wide ranging and genuinely fascinating. We're lucky that we get to have tutorials in colleges other than Hilda's (which is also an excuse to go snooping behind the closed doors of other colleges and make snow angels where you're not allowed to in Christ Church after tutorials before running back to Hilda's).

Emily, 2nd Year, St. Hilda's



"The tutorial workload is manageable, 1-2 essays a week, and the topics we're set are wide ranging and genuinely fascinating."

St John's - 4 per year

St John's Geography's USP is Martin Society - one of the most active College Geography Societies. Every fortnight we host a (free!) lunch with the whole department, including some of our resident professors, which has included Gillian Rose and Linda McDowell, two greats of feminist Geography. St John's as a college is a large, friendly community based right in the centre of Oxford - 5 minutes from Tesco, clubs and shopping, and with a superb new study centre which is top of the range.

And only 5 minutes from the Geography School too - think of the lie-ins. St John's has around 4 Geographers per year, so you'll get to know the other Geographers very well.

Benedict, 2nd Year, St John's



St Peter's - 4 per year

Studying at Peter's is both fun and relaxed. The undergraduates get on really well, with social events ranging from an annual dinner to a Christmas party. This creates a strong bond amongst the geographers here - which is great as you can exchange ideas and essays in the lead up to revision.

Second and third years go to Craswall near the Welsh border during the Easter vacation to revise and relax - this is really fun and the college covers the bill!

Jim, 2nd Year, St Peter's



Regent's Park - 3 per year

Regent's Park usually take two or three Geographers a year so with only about 9 Geographers in the whole college, we make a very close knit family but are also despite integrated into the whole undergraduate body. Regent's is a fab and friendly college, based in the heart of Oxford City Centre, just a few minutes walk away from Tesco and some of the best pubs in the city!

Ethan, 2nd Year, Regents Park

"Almost every person I speak to at Oxford say that their one and only regret is not applying to Worcester"

Worcester - 4 per year

Almost every person I speak to at Oxford say that their one and only regret is not applying to Worcester. Their reasoning being our reputation as a highly social, sporty, friendly and overwhelmingly beautiful college (FYI we have a lake). At Worcester, there are four or five geographers in each year group. In first year, we have our Physical Geography tutorials within Worcester and our Human Geography tutorials at St Hilda's.

Sophie, 2nd Year, Worcester



LIFE OUTSIDE

While studying is a big part of Oxford, the parts you'll love the most are the extra-curricular activities. There are lots of ways to explore your geographical interests at the University.

Oxford Geography Society

GeogSoc is Oxford's premiere Geography-based society. It hosts speaker events, careers and events, and social occasions, most notably Colouring and Cocktails (see Thea's map of the world on the right for a sample). Geography Society is open to all disciplines, so even if you decide Geography at Oxford isn't for you, you can still show your Geography love!

Benedict, President of the Oxford Geography Society and 1st Year Geographer at St John's



Oxford Climate Society

The Climate Society is a great way for geographers to engage with perhaps the hallmark feature of our interdisciplinary study; Climate Change! As societies go, it's by far one of the most open and welcoming ones. All students can get involved with the sub-teams at the Start of Michaelmas, with relatively little experience required; just passion! The society also run weekly free talks around town, with no membership or booking required. Later down the road, you may find yourself wanting to join the general committee or sign up to the free lecture programme, but whatever you choose, you'll certainly develop your knowledge of a critical future issue!



Luke, OCS committee member and 1st Year Geographer at St. Hilda's

Oxford University Exploration Club

The exploration club offers opportunities to take part in a variety of activities and meet awesome people who are interested in organising small to large scale expeditions. We normally hold talks every Tuesday, with speakers varying from Doug Allen, award winning wildlife photographer, to students who have been on expeditions over their holiday. As a geographer the club has opened up lots of opportunities to me in terms of ideas for dissertations, contacts who can help me get access to certain equipment, archives and research and also a great group of people who enjoy getting out in the outdoors.



Matt, OUEC Treasurer and 1st year Geographer at St. Hilda's

Wider Society Life at Oxford

You don't just have to stay in the Geography lane when it comes to Oxford Society - take a look at any of the listed societies' Facebook pages to get an insight to what you could get up to next year.



Non-Geography Subjects - History Society - Biology Society - Chemistry Society - Earth Sciences Society - PPE Society - Politics - Oxford Labour Club - Oxford Conservative Association - Oxford University Liberal Democrat Society - Oxford Student Green Party - The Oxford Union - Languages - French Society - Spanish Society - Chinese Society - Italian Society - German Society - General - International Development Society - Model UN - Oxford Energy Society - Islamic Society - Computer Science Society - Africa Society - The Arts - Dance Society - Drama Society - Photographic Society - Charity - RAG (Raise and Give) - On Your Doorstep (Homelessness campaign) - Something a little different - Quidditch Society - Caledonian Society (see photo) - eSports Society - Rock and Metal Society (ROCKSOC)

Find two of the GeogSoc's picks below for societies:

RAG - www.facebook.com/oxfordrag

Oxford Raise and Give (RAG) is the University's student fundraising group. Each year we organise a range of events and charities for students to get involved with both by participating and by helping to organise the events. The charities we support are elected by students each year and our annual events include the RAG Ball and Garden Party. We also run sponsored hitchhike events like Jailbreak where students have 36 hours to get as far away from Oxford as possible and back gain without spending any of their own money. Teams in 2018 got as far as Budapest, Singapore, Geneva and Stockholm and raised £14.2k for charity.

Benedict, 2nd Year Geographer, St Catherine's



Oxford History Society

Choosing Geography doesn't mean you have to give up your other academic passions. History Society is a large, active society celebrating all things history. They host high-profile speakers including Lord David Trimble, Vernon Bogdanor CBE and others. They also have a Journal where they publish historical work (a great way to test your academic writing) as well as termly pub quizzes and drinks. One of the 2018 Presidents, Jim, is even a Geographer!

Written on behalf of Oxford History Society



The Arts at Oxford

Oxford has some amazing opportunities to get involved in the arts. A wide array of music groups are available to join covering various genres and being surrounded by people talented at their instruments makes it easier than ever to start your own group. It only took me 3 weeks in the first term to find a band with similar interests to me.

Drama is also plentiful at Oxford. A great introduction is the collegiate drama competition in the

first term, where each college puts on a short performance of their choice, ending in an awards show. This was also a great place to meet other people interested in drama. Past this, there are always plays going on with auditions open to anyone. Take a look at list of Arts societies above, or look on the website for a list of the student clubs available <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs/list?wssl=1>.

Jay, 1st Year, St Catherines

Sports at Oxford

Oxford has a sports team for almost every sport you can imagine. The great thing about colleges is that there are casual sports teams, and Blues teams for high-level athletes. One particular sport central to Oxford is rowing, as Keelin writes:

Rowing has become a surprisingly large part of my life this year considering I had never even been in a boat before October!



Although the Geography course here at Oxford can be demanding and time-consuming, I think it is really important to make time to go outside and exercise in order to relieve stress and get those endorphins flowing. Being on the water, whether you are intensely training for one of the many inter-college races at various points in the year or simply going for leisurely paddle, is a fantastic way to keep fit, relax and join a tight-knit, supportive community!

Keelin, 2nd Year, Jesus

Societies to Contact about Applying

Both department and students recognise that Oxford Geography's current Access statistics could be a lot better. But regardless of what you may read in the news, Oxford has some fantastic outreach. Some of the most dedicated people I know work tirelessly to make new students feel comfortable, regardless of their background. Below are a list of societies with their contact details - if you need any help or advice, they'll always be there to answer your call!

Oxford Geography Society - bit.ly/geogsocTSR

Oxford Geography Society is a student run society which put on talks and geography based events for the student community at Oxford. We also run a StudentRoom account where you can ask us questions about the application process or just what Geography at Oxford is like in general.

Oxford Geography Society Committee

First Generation Oxford Students - facebook.com/oxfordfirstgenerationstudents/

Hi, we're Oxford-First Generation Students, a society for students at Oxford who are the first generation in their family to go to university. From hosting socials such as pizza and a pint, brunch, ice cream trips and other activities (generally involving free food and drink!) to developing outreach specifically targeted at first-gen sixth formers, we aim to help first-gen students settle and feel part of our community when they arrive in Oxford. We're as inclusive as possible of "first-gen" definitions, so if a student feels they don't have the same privileges

as someone whose parents went to university in the traditional sense, we very much welcome them to take part in our events!

Oxford-First Generation Society Committee

LGBTQ+ Society - facebook.com/OULGBTQ/

Geography is the perfect subject to explore questions of identity, gender and space. Queer and feminist geographies are taught in first year with chances to further explore these topics in second and third year. Furthermore, the department is open minded with progressive and liberal views and facilitated discussion and increases inclusivity. The LGBTQ+ community at Oxford is extremely diverse and very welcoming. A range of diverse and fun activities are organised by the LGBTQ+ society, from Tuesday drinks before Plush (Oxford's LGBTQ+ club) to Sunday brunches. Each college has an LGBTQ+ rep who is always free to talk in confidence and organised in-college events.

LGBTQ+ Society Committee



Afro-Caribbean Society - facebook.com/OxACS/

As the university's largest student society for African & Caribbean students, our aim is to promote and celebrate African and Caribbean culture within the University of Oxford. We try to ensure the Oxford experience is as fun, inclusive and engaging as possible for students of African and Caribbean descent through regular social events such as food nights, club nights and game nights. In Michaelmas we had our Black History Month Showcase which featured guest speakers, performance poetry and a panel discussion with DJ Clara Amfo, model and activist, Adwoa Aboah and blogger, The Slumflower. Earlier last year we also held an exclusive screening of Black Panther.

ACS Committee



Other Societies

Society	Who for	Link
Class Act	For anyone who identifies as working class, state school, or underprivileged background	Oxfordsu.org/campaigns/ClassAct/
Oxford Northerners	For anyone who identifies as a Northerner.	facebook.com/OxfordNorthernersSociety/

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Lucy is a second year student at St. Catherine's. Lucy came to Oxford from St. Peters Catholic Sixth Form, Birmingham, and is interested in Paleontology and Cultural Landscapes. Here, Lucy recounts an average day of their life as a Geography student.

An average day at Catz varies greatly, but here is an example of what a 'day in the life' could look like.

VERY EARLYam - I am a novice rower, so go rowing on the river Isis very early in the morning, but it's worth it for the beautiful sunrise!

8am - After this I have breakfast, and do some work on my current essay, which could be on urbanisation in Africa, for instance.

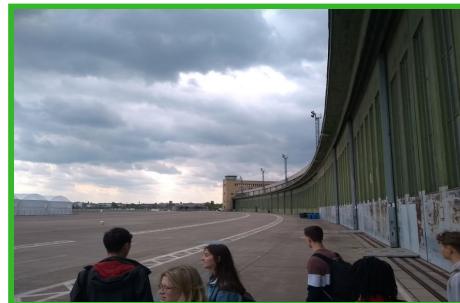
10.45am - The Catz Geographers meet at 10.45 to walk to lectures, which we have from 11 until 1. We then have lunch together in college. I might do some more work on my essay until a tutorial at 3, for instance focusing on the the importance of erosion and tectonics in shaping landscapes.

"An average day at Catz varies greatly"

5pm - I go for a chilled lacrosse throwabout with some friends, and then have 'scaf' which is Catz college dinner.

8pm - After Scaf I do a bit more work on my essay, for instance making the bibliography, and then go to the bar and chill out- on Mondays we have a charity pub quiz which is fun.

10pm - After this I might go out clubbing if lots of people are, but if not I head back to my room to watch some TV/ sleep.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Zach is a 1st year student at St. Catherine's. Zach came to Oxford from Rushden Academy, Northamptonshire and is interested in transport geographies. Here, Zach recounts an average day of his life as a Geographer at Oxford.

One of the many perks of being a geographer is that we don't spend a huge amount of time in lectures compared to other subjects at Oxford - normally an hour or two a day, which is typically in the late morning. These finish just in time for lunch in hall; with good, cheap food and a great friendly atmosphere at most colleges, what's not to like?

On busy days we may have a tutorial for an hour (and/or a class) organised by the college, but we normally only have one or two of these a week. This is a great opportunity to bounce ideas off each other and spend time with one of the world's best minds in the field.

Otherwise, afternoons would be spent in one of Oxford's many beautiful libraries, reading for, or writing, the next tutorial essay.

"Lectures finish just in time for lunch in hall; with good, cheap food and a great friendly atmosphere at most colleges, what's not to like?"

Whilst completing each essay can be a time-consuming process, especially in the odd week where we may have more than one to do, there is still plenty of time in the day to get involved in other things across the university – whether it be sport, volunteering or some weird but wonderful society; there are so many of these to choose from, plus the Oxford Union often has some interesting and entertaining speakers in the evenings, if you choose to become a member.



FAQs

We were all in your shoes just over two years ago, so we thought we'd answer some questions we would have like to know the answer to back then. If you have any further questions, please email: geography.society@studentclubs.ox.ac.uk

What emotional support is available in Oxford?

We'll be honest with you, Oxford life can be tough at times. However, whatever issues you're having, it's important to remember there is a huge range of emotional support that everyone can make use of. The number of different schemes mean there is bound to be a place you feel comfortable talking to someone. From Oxford Nightline, a student-run helpline open every night from 8pm-8am during term which you can call, message or have a face-to-face chat, to drop-in sessions run by Oxford SU, there is ALWAYS help available. Every college also has its own team of peer supporters who are trained specifically to listen and talk to you about any issues, as well as designated members of staff if you'd feel more comfortable talking to them. What's more, every college is truly a close community - everyone looks out for each other.

Jamie, 1st Year, Mansfield



What financial support is available in Oxford?

There are literally hundreds of scholarships, grants and bursaries available at Oxford to help if you're worried about finances, which ensure everyone can not only attend Oxford but live life here to the full - regardless of their household income. The University offers scholarships to cover tuition fees or contribute towards living costs; some of these are based on academic or sporting performance, others on your personal background.

UK/EU students from lower-income households are automatically entitled to the Oxford Bursary to help towards living costs. In addition, each college has its own range of bursaries you may be eligible for, covering everything from books and study supplies to travel (whether it's related to your degree or not!). In short, there is a huge amount of financial support available at Oxford, meaning costs should not be the reason you don't come to university!

Check out Oxford's range of support online, or you can go to thescholarshiphub.org.uk to search scholarships and bursaries from unis across the country. You never know what pot of money might be available for you - use it!

Jamie, 1st Year, Mansfield

I come from an area which doesn't get many people into Oxford. Will I feel like I belong less?

Coming from an area which doesn't get many people into Oxford can make the application to study here more daunting because you don't know what to expect. But once you arrive in Oxford, where you are from really doesn't matter, as everyone is in the same position. Before arriving in Oxford you can ask your college parents any questions you might have, and in Freshers Week there are many activities so you make friends quickly. It is also so easy to meet people from across the university with similar backgrounds or with similar interests (sports, religious, political etc.) by getting involved with the societies!

Holly, 1st Year, Mansfield

Is first year stressful?

The first year at any University will be tough: for some, this will be the first time away from home. Luckily, Oxford has a wide range of resources (from welfare doggos to counselling sessions) to ensure that you feel at home here. The first year course for Geography is really fun and engaging : highlights have to be our Swanage field trip in Michaelmas (that's Oxford's way of saying Autumn term), cocktails and colouring socials from Geog Soc (they're incredible), and more. So though some topics will be more challenging than others, there's no need to stress too much in the first year: it's all about having fun and engaging with Geography!

Maddy, 1st Year, St Catherine

What is it like to be an international student doing Geography at Oxford?

First of all, it's really fun! There isn't much difference when you're international in terms of how you experience the course because it is not UK-focused, so don't worry about that. One thing I really enjoy is that I can bring in my experience as an international student which really helps in understanding so many topics! It's also pretty useful (and encouraged by the tutors) to draw on the experience and geopolitical knowledge you have from your home country. I can even say this works as an advantage to be honest, so don't hesitate to use examples from your neighbourhood, your tutors will love them, that's what Geography is about. All academic stuff is so supportive when it comes to anything such as English (I'm terrible at articles for example) and my tutors were more than happy to help me with anything I needed. The environment is so friendly and welcoming that I couldn't ask for more!

Natalia, 1st Year, St John's



What's the workload like?

The official prospectuses for Geography at Oxford will say that it involves 8hrs of lectures & a tutorial per week (handing in one essay). While this is true, realistically you'll be spending about 30hrs on an essay in addition to lectures so treat it like a full-time job. While this can sound quite demanding it's definitely manageable. Geographers are known for their interests and involvements outside of the classroom – so there's time to enjoy all that Oxford has to offer. While the academic stuff must come first, make sure you use your first year to explore all the hundreds of clubs and societies the University so proudly boasts.

Maddy, 1st Year, St Catherine's



APPLYING

How to Choose a College

See our college guide to get a flavour of each college. Don't get too bogged down in college choice, and especially don't over analyse (or even analyse) the entry statistics to calculate that St Hilda's gives you a 0.4% higher chance of getting in based on admissions statistics. Just choose the college that you think you'll like the most. Consider whether you want:

- A **big** (Christ Church) or **small** (Teddy Hall) college
- A **central** (St John's) or **quieter** (St Catz) college
- **Lots** of Geography Freshers (Keble) or only a **few** (Regent's Park)
- Whether you can **live 'in'** all three years, and if this is important to you
- Even menial things, like how the **food** works in hall

Consider these over admissions statistics any day. However, it really doesn't matter where you end up - the Geography teaching is guided by the department and so is the same anywhere. You might get 'pooled' somewhere - taken away from where you originally applied - but this is fine too! You'll learn to love your college above all else.

Benedict, 1st Year, St John's College

Interviews

This might seem like a cop out, but we're not going to tell you how to succeed in an interview. Because ultimately, doing well in an interview can't be learned off-by-heart. The **only** thing tutors are looking for is **how you think**. They don't much care if you've read 25 case studies on volcanism in Iceland, or that you can recite every capital city. They just want to see how you react to new information. To this end, your interviewers will continue to ask you questions until you can't answer. They don't take some sort of weird pleasure from this, they're doing to test how you adapt to new information. So just answer the questions the best you can, and don't be afraid to give a creative answer - it may just get you the place!

One other thing - if you do get called up to interview, make the most of it! Try and talk to some people,



because they're all in the same boat as you. I was a hermit in my interviews and regretted it a lot, so make the most of it. See some museums, eat some food, and soak in Oxford.

Benedict, 1st Year, St John's College

General Admissions

Applying to Oxford is like a marathon: entry examinations are in November, interviews in December, offers announced in January, A-Levels/ IB exams in June, results in August, starting Oxford in October. Running a marathon requires some preparation – so read below for some ideas!

There is a new test for entry in 2020 or deferred entry in 2021 onwards, called the Geography Admissions Test (GAT). Information about the test can be found here - bit.ly/oxfordGAT.

There is also currently no minimum GCSE grade requirement in order to receive an offer from Oxford for Geography. Instead, GCSE results are contextualised to the school in which they were achieved.

"My one advice for applicants is be passionate and continuously prove that you love Geography. I could talk for hours about how interesting, wide-ranging and essential the study of Geography is and you should be too. When it comes to boosting your personal statement, look into taking part in some relevant work experience or reading some work that genuinely fascinates you. Experiment, look beyond your A-level or GCSE Geography specification and really use this as an opportunity to find even more reasons to be passionate about studying Geography. Interviews are made out to be way more daunting than they actually are, try to see them as an incredible opportunity to discuss and engage with geographical concepts with world leading experts in their fields as well as meet an awesome group of interviewees, whilst snooping around an Oxford college for free!"

Emily, 1st Year, St. Hilda's

"For the personal statement: keep it purely academic – Oxford aren't interested in whether you made the 1st team for rugby but instead they want to know about why you love Geography and what interests you have in the subject. So, read the news and read journal articles on topics you enjoy – after all, it's a personal (albeit academic) statement."

Maddy, 1st Year, St Catherine's



2nd Year students on the Berlin fieldtrip. There is no reason this couldn't be you one day!

READING

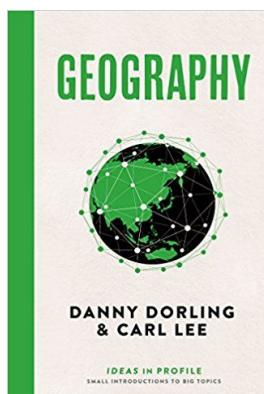
For your personal statement, you'll be encouraged to read some books. Don't get too focussed on this - tutors much prefer to see **how** you think, not what you know. However, these are some great books to introduce you to ideas of Geography at Oxford. Book recommendations by Emily, 1st Year, St Hilda's College and Benedict, 1st Year, St John's College.

Geography

Danny Dorling and Carl Lee (2016)

Prof Danny Dorling is a bit of a legend in the Oxford Geography department and this book he co-authored with Carl Lee is a great introduction to all things Geography and offers fascinating insights into key areas of interest for Geography such as climate change and globalisation. It's a great primer for what you'll study at Uni and helps to illustrate the dynamic nature of Geography

Emily

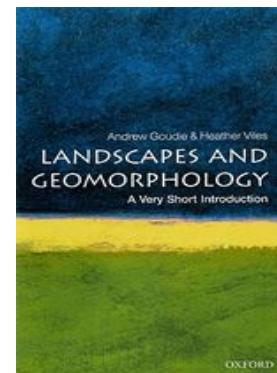


A Very Short Introduction to Landscapes and Geomorphology

Andrew Goudie and Heather Viles (2016)

Another book by two absolute legends of the Oxford Geography Department, this book is a great introduction to the first year Geomorphology course. It's a great read with simple explanations of key concepts and is pretty short too. We'd also recommend lots of the other 'A Very Short Introduction' titles as a way to introduce yourself to key Geography concepts

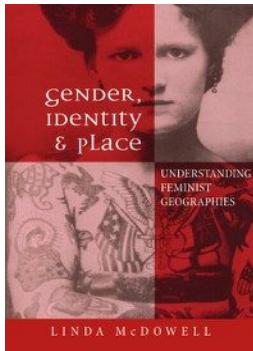
Emily



Gender, Identity and Place

Linda McDowell (1997)

This book is a nice straightforward introduction into the idea of the study of gender in place. Even (in fact, especially), if you're dubious about the concept of gender being linked to space. Linda McDowell (who, cheeky plug, is a member of St John's College) explains theoretical concepts of gendered place in a straightforward and convincing manner. This book is a great way to introduce yourself to some of the biggest ideas in Human Geography

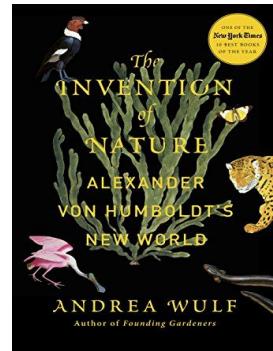


Benedict

The Invention of Nature

Andrea Wulf (2015)

This book is actually part of the 2nd year course, but is really easy to read. It follows Alexander von Humboldt, one of the fathers of modern ecology (he's got a Penguin named after him) and his geographical expeditions to South America. This book really captures the spirit of geographical inquiry really well, as well as being a genuinely entertaining read



Emily

WHAT NEXT?

We really hope we've convinced you how great Geography at Oxford can be, but if you're still on the fence, or would just like to know more, here's a page of links which might be useful to you.

Contact Us

If you're ever in doubt about whether to apply or not, we're always around to answer your questions. If your application experience is anything like ours, you'll have about 15 different people telling you contrasting things about University admission. This is doubly true for Oxford - for some reason, everyone has a very strong opinion on how Oxford admissions work, and many of them are straight up wrong. So please contact us, if you have any worries - no question too big or too small. Contact us by:

Email: geography.society@studentclubs.ox.ac.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oxgeogsoc/>

Student Room: @OxGeogSoc

Website: www.oxgeogsoc.com

To look at

If you just want to know a bit more about Geography at Oxford in general, the official Oxford Geography website is always a good shout.

Oxford Geography website: <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/>

If you're interested in how the course is structured and didn't manage to pick up any of the other booklets at Open Day, the information is here (or google Oxford Geography):
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/Geography>

Application advice from Keble Geography: <http://www.keble-oxford-Geography.info/>

Twitter where students tweet about daily life at Oxford www.twitter.com/oxgeog

Our favourite Geography meme page: <https://www.facebook.com/Geografun/>

Oxford Geography Society: [facebook.com/OxGeogSoc](https://www.facebook.com/OxGeogSoc)

Oxford Climate Society: [facebook.com/OxfordClimateSoc](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordClimateSoc)

Oxford Energy Society: [facebook.com/OxfordEnergySoc](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordEnergySoc)

Oxford Exploration Society: Facebook Search 'OUEC'

To do

Before Arriving

In the summer before coming to Oxford the best advice we can give is to relax. When you get to Oxford the workload will be challenging and you will wish you spent more time lazing in the sun when you're in libraries writing essays! But if you do fancy a little head start, try listening to podcasts (Guardian Long Reads, Ted Talks, BBC Enquiry), keep up to date with the news, and engage in the world around you. Dabble in some 'A Very Short Introduction to' books – these are great snippets of some of the stuff you may cover in the course. Oh and do make sure to join all the relevant Facebook fresher groups, Like 'Oxfess' and 'Oxlove' (you won't regret it), and get in contact with your college / the Geography department if you have any questions.

Visit a College

Colleges are always wide open to prospective applicants, but generally focus on their own region when it comes to access. This means regions attached to colleges without Geography can sometimes underplay Geography. Don't let this stop you! While it takes a bit of organisation, colleges are always accepting prospective applicants. Just email the outreach team of the college you're interested in (see the St Anne's email above) and they'll be happy to accommodate you. You might even get free lunch!

Email outreach@st-annes.ox.ac.uk or any other college, find their details here:
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/colleges>

UNIQ Summer School

If you happen to be going into your first year of sixth form for this coming September 2019, then there is nothing we can recommend more than the UNIQ Summer School. This programme is designed for students at state schools - targeting those groups traditionally underrepresented at the University. Several of the current Oxford Geography cohort took part in the Summer School, which is a FREE week of food, accommodation and Geography in Oxford.
uniq.ox.ac.uk/Geography

University of Oxford Open Days

You can read as much as you like about Oxford, but we'd say you can't 'get' Oxford until you visit it. Come along and look round! If you can't make these days, most colleges are open to prospective applicants at anytime. Check on a college's website or give them a call to find out

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-and-outreach/open-days>

Or just Google 'Oxford open days'

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Thursday 4th July 2019

Friday 20th September 2019

CREDITS

The Alternative Prospectus was put together by a team of Oxford students dedicated to improving access. A list of those that worked on this booklet can be found below. We hope to see some of your names on this list in future!

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GALLERY

We asked Oxford Geographers to send in their highlights from the year of Geography. Here are just a few of them.



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WHERE WILL OXFORD GEOGRAPHY TAKE YOU?



