

FAQ of Oxford Visiting Students Programme, Lady Margaret Hall

Is Lady Margaret Hall part of the University of Oxford?

Oxford University is comprised of 39 independent and self-governing colleges, of which Lady Margaret Hall is one. All Oxford students are members of a college, which is normally where they reside, dine and socialise. The Director of Visiting Students acts as a Personal Tutor to all Visiting Students and will help them to organise their studies. However, students study with tutors from throughout the University; they utilise University facilities and participate in University clubs, societies and events.

What are the entry requirements?

We would normally expect a minimum GPA of 3.75.

Proof of English language competency: If you were not born in a majority English-speaking country, you must have been studying full-time in English for two years BEFORE applying to LMH. The UK Home Office requires the University to confirm that all applicants who need a Tier 4 student visa and who are not nationals of a majority English-speaking country, as defined by the Home Office, meet the minimum Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR) level B2. Unless you have been educated full-time in English during the last two years you will need to provide us with results of an acceptable English language test such as IELTS so that we can confirm you meet this requirement. We adhere to the University of Oxford's standards on test score requirements. You may submit your test score after submitting your application, however, if you are offered a place, it will be subject to your achieving the required standard in your English language test.

Which subjects can I study as a Visiting Student at Lady Margaret Hall?

Visiting Students can study most of the subjects available to regular LMH undergraduates, with the exception of natural sciences and law. (We do, however, offer Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science and Biological Sciences.) Please read the Visiting Students Programme brochure for reference.

In those areas where the college does not regularly admit undergraduates e.g. Human Sciences, it may be possible to arrange courses in some of the component parts of the degree, e.g. Sociology, Demography, Anthropology. Similarly, in some areas where the college does not normally admit visiting students, e.g. Law, it may be possible to arrange one or more courses in a related subject for those interested.

How many courses can I take as a Visiting Student?

Your term will be structured around taking a **major** course, which usually requires 8 tutorials per term (one per week) and a **minor** course will usually involve 4 tutorials per term (one on alternative weeks). Therefore an average 8-week term for a Visiting Student will involve 12 one-hour tutorials. You will usually be asked to write a short essay for each of these tutorials. There are usually no 'term-papers' which you have to write at the end. Your

work will be individually assessed and marked and feedback will be given on a week-by-week basis. Your final term grade will be awarded on the basis of both the quality of your written work and how well you have engaged in tutorial discussions with your tutor. Hence both written and verbal skills are developed and evaluated during the course. Students are also advised to attend lectures to supplement materials covered in the tutorial sessions.

You can select tutorials from a maximum of 3 subject areas, however, in order to achieve the greatest benefit from the Oxford tutorial system, we recommend that you select tutorials from only one or two subject areas.

What is a tutorial?

A distinctive feature of the Oxford educational system is the learning that takes place in tutorials or small classes. The structure of tutorials varies across subject areas, but they normally involve between one and three students meeting regularly with a 'tutor'. In preparation for the meeting, students are required to complete some readings and usually must either write an essay or prepare a problem set in advance. The session with the Tutor involves discussion of the assignment and personalised feedback on the student's work.

This system of learning involves an intense interaction between the student and her or his teacher. Although there may only be one hour of contact each week, students are required to spend several hours independently preparing for this and must come to the tutorial fully ready to delve into the topic at hand. In the tutorial, a student is given constructive feedback and is pushed to think through topics in much greater depth than is the norm in a classroom or lecture setting. We find that most students adjust to this quickly and come to value this way of learning and the unique opportunity it provides to pursue particular academic interests.

How is my work at Oxford graded?

Visiting Students are not matriculated, and are therefore not eligible to sit University examinations. Rather, Visiting Students receive grades based on their work during the term. Each one of the student's subject tutors will prepare a report at the end of each term which includes comments on the student's work as well as a numerical grade. Tutors use the Oxford system of grading in their reports and they grade Visiting Students according to Oxford standards. The Visiting Student Programme Office then translates these grades into the American equivalent. Both the Oxford grade and the translated grade appear on transcripts that are sent from Lady Margaret Hall to the student's home institution.

Grade Translation

The LMH Visiting Student Programme Office will translate the Oxford grades given by Tutors to their American equivalent on all Visiting Student transcripts. This will be in accordance with the following scale:

80+ = A+

70-79 = A

65-69 = A-

60-64 = B+

55-59 = B

50-54 = B-

45-49 = C+

40-44 = C

<40 = F

What are the fees for the Visiting Student Programme?

Fees are normally agreed between Lady Margaret Hall and your home institution's Study Abroad Office.

Accommodation costs are fixed annually and will be notified by early summer. Please check the VSP Brochure for reference.

What are the dates of the academic year?

The academic year at Oxford University runs from October to June. The year is divided into three eight week terms: Michaelmas (autumn, October to December), Hilary (spring, January to March), and Trinity (summer, April to June).

In Michaelmas and Hilary terms there is an induction programme for new students in the week before 'full term' (referred to as 'nought week'). The Visiting Students' Programme office will guide you through the entire process of settling in to life and studies at Oxford University. There are also meetings with tutors in 0th week of each term, therefore all students are required to return to College by 1 pm on the Thursday of 0th week. Visiting Students are expected to be in College for the whole of each term. It is NOT possible to leave early in Trinity (summer) term, even if you wish to begin an internship.

Can I study at LMH for just one term?

We encourage our Visiting Students to study here for a full academic year because we believe that this is the best way to get the full experience of being at Oxford and participating in its unique educational system.

However, we will consider part-year applications (either for Michaelmas term only or for both Hilary and Trinity terms), but we need to give priority to full-year applications.

Where do Visiting Students reside and can we reside in College outside of term time?

All Visiting Students are allocated single rooms in College for the weeks 0 - 8. Normally, you are required to leave your room at the end of week 8; however, accommodation during vacations can usually be arranged for a

few additional days. You will be charged per night for each extra night you stay. The nightly rate in 2017-18 is £23.90.

What kind of extra-curricular activities are available to Visiting Students?

- Societies for academic interest, such as Beaufort Society (English), Daisy Circle (politics) and History Society
- Sports - football, rowing, tennis and many others
- Music and drama - Regular concerts and plays are organised and produced in LMH (sometimes in the gardens) which include our own students and others.
- Groups that seek to play a role in the wider community of the city of Oxford, often by helping the disadvantaged
- Our own punts, moored in our gardens
- And... of course... social events, ranging from regular college discos to parties and quizzes