

Spring 2021 Online Course FAQs

-Internet Data Analysis and Fundamentals of Research Methods



Note: Online spring Course 2021 is adapted from Oxford Study Abroad On-campus Spring Programme @St Antony's College, University of Oxford in light of COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Spring online course is taught by Oxford faculty 100% online. You will not have to visit campus to complete an online course. While the online course allow students' flexibility in their schedules to some extent, they are also highly structured with clear expectations and due dates.

Students have many opportunities to practice and demonstrate what they are learning individually and in groups through discussion forums, writing assignments, projects, and video conferences.

1. [What should students know before enrolling in an online course?](#)

While the registration process for online and on-campus classes is often similar, prospective online students should review the course type and requirements before enrolling.

Requirements for application:

*Sound academic performance

70 (on a 100 scale) at the minimum.

Requirement can be different due to different grading systems of different partner universities. For more details, please contact your home institutions.

* 1st-year undergraduates from some partner universities do not need to submit academic results.

*English proficiency

(1) IELTS: minimum 5.5 for overall average

(2) TOEFL: minimum 85 for the overall score

(3) College English Test (CET)-4: minimum 425 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only.)

(4) College English Test (CET)-6: minimum 500 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only)

* For those applicants who have not taken the above tests by the time of application or have not been in a professional English-speaking environment for years, their English proficiency must be assessed through Tele-interview by a programme officer

* This requirement for proof of English proficiency is not required for applicants whose first language is English, those whose first language is not English but have been involved in a full-time degree-level academic programme at a university where English is the language of instruction, or those who have extensive experience working in a professional English-speaking environment.

* The selection panel of the Course will consider the overall qualifications of each applicant.

Dates: this course is completed entirely online

Orientation Day: 29th January 2021

Teaching Weeks: 1st-19th February 2021

Feedback Week: 22nd-26th February 2021

Tuition Fee: £1, 250 Pounds

Note: Each applicant from the partner universities is offered a favourable discount of £100 off the tuition fee.

Technology Requirement: All online courses rely on ZOOM or DINGTALK for videos and other course materials.

12-day online course is roughly equivalent to 40 hours of classroom time, and please read the brochure for more detailed information on the programme.

Course Content:

✧ Internet Data Analysis (24 hours):

Introduction to Social Data Science and Data Mining (Design and Epistemology)

Text-mining and Computational Text Analysis

Motif Analysis in Signed Networks Data Mining in Internet Research (examples and summary)

Social Network Mining and Analysis: Position and Centrality

Social Network Mining and Analysis

Homophily and Community Structure

✧ Fundamentals of Research Methods(12 hours)

Module 1: Research Fundamentals

This module focuses on research fundamentals. Research methods in all subject disciplines are grounded in the social and natural sciences and utilise similar techniques to conduct research, especially literature searches and reviews. However, there are distinct differences with regards to theory development, identifying research problems and developing research questions.

Module 2: Research Methods

In this module, students are guided to develop a working knowledge of the most commonly used qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students learn the differences between qualitative and quantitative research and how the choice of research method depends on the ontological position of the researcher and the epistemology suitable to the research question.

✧ Lectures (4 hours):

How is My Life in Oxford?

Big Data and AI

[2. What does an online course look like?](#)

Online courses are much like classroom courses, except that the delivery of learning materials (lectures, homework, quizzes, readings) and interaction with students and instructors will be through the online system. Students may need to purchase textbooks or access to materials online. Instructors and teaching assistants lead discussions and are available for feedback and questions. The course will have a final assignment, which is taken online through the supervision of the instructors.

Course support officer will email you on the Students Orientation Guide and prior to the course start date.

3. Does my online course require a final exam or assignment?

Final exams or assignments are timed, open book, and based on written or project work, which can be taken anywhere. The final exam and assignment will be made by the instructors. The course support officer will let you know the details before the course begins, who will send you email by providing you with some scoring information during the term.

Note: Students themselves are responsible for all arrangements connected to final exam or assignment and reading materials before the course starts.

4. I am going to be in another country during the course time. Can I still take an online course? How do I take my final exam in another country?

Yes, as long as you have high-speed Internet connection, you can participate fully in the spring session online course.

Note: Students themselves are responsible for all arrangements connected to final exam or assignment and reading materials before the course starts.

5. How do students interact in an online class?

Students may communicate through discussion forums, social media and – particularly for group work – videoconferencing, as well as phone and email.

Online learners interact with instructors in similar ways, though they may need to be more proactive than on-campus students to develop a strong relationship. That may involve introducing themselves to their instructor before classes start and attending discussion.

6. How do I get my course materials, course schedule, assignments and grades?

Course support officer will deliver you all the course materials, course schedule, assignment and grades. If your class requires you to purchase a text or accompanying materials, you may need to purchase by yourself.

And your schedule, assignment and final grade will be delivered to you by email after the course ends.

7. What are typical assignments in online courses?

In general, students should expect assignments that are similar to those in on-campus programmes, such as research papers – in addition to online-specific assignments, such as responding to professor-posed questions in a discussion board.

An online course may also require group projects where students communicate virtually, as well as remote presentations. These can be challenging for online learners, who often live across various time zones.

8. Technology Requirements

- You need access to a computer (desk or laptop) and a reliable internet connection for the duration for the course.
- Web camera and microphone (most laptops have them built-in), so having a camera and microphone will help you connect with instructors.

- No advanced technology or additional software is needed.
- The online course rely on **Zoom or DINGTALK** for videos and other course materials.

9. [Time Commitment](#)

- You will spend about 20-30 hours each week attending lectures, reading course texts, studying for assignment, posting to discussion forums, or working on projects with your classmates.
-

10. [Add/Drop/Withdraw from Course](#)

- Online classes are bound by the same add/drop/withdraw from course deadlines, which is clearly explained in the terms and conditions of the Programme Application Form.
-

11. [Sections & Discussion Part in Class](#)

- Sections and discussion time are your opportunity to apply what you learn from the lectures and reading and interact with your classmates to test your ideas.
-

12. [After Enrolling](#)

- **After enrolling in an online-only class:**

Start checking your **email**.

A few days before class begins, course support officer will email instructions to your email account.

When you enroll in classes, you will not get an email from the faculty (nothing automatic or immediate). They will message you closer to when class begins. If you see that you're enrolled in your email, you can be confident that you are, in fact, in the class.

Courses are hosted on **ZOOM or DINGTALK**. You do need to sign up for an account, login with your username and password, which will be guided online by the course support officer.

13. [Time vs. Pace](#)

- One benefit of an online class is that you can often complete the online portions of the readings and discussions at any time of the day or night. Online classes do have **deadlines** for assignments, and occasionally exams are scheduled at times when students have more flexibility (e.g., early in the morning, late at night, or on weekends).

Class Time: 17:00-20:30 1st-19th February 2021(China Standard Time)

Note: The video of the teaching will be recorded for your convenience. Therefore, you may leave the virtual classroom in the case of emergency. And the final assignments are due roughly end of the course.

Enrolled students will be expected to have access to a computer with a stable internet connection throughout the full session.

14. [Course Evaluations](#)

- Done completely online at the end of class. Evaluations come to your email.

Evaluations are extremely important: instructors and teaching assistants value your feedback and use it to make real change.

15. [Background Information: Oxford University and Colleges](#)

The college system is a major traditional feature of Oxford and Cambridge. This Collegiate System is different from the colleges we usually understand. According to the divisions of the majors such as “School of Science”, “Business School” and “Engineering School”, the Oxford College is not divided by different subjects, but has a multi-community of multiple subjects and inclusive packages. The Oxford University's college is more like an independent small university, with higher autonomy, in charge of its own finances, managing students' food, clothing, housing and transportation, and cooperating with the university's various subject teaching departments to manage student teaching. In addition to having a tutor in the department and a tutor at the college, the college provides an important place for both academic and social life.

In addition to the College, Oxford's teaching and research activities (especially the latter) are organised into 16 departments. The Faculty is not an autonomous unit within the university. Faculties are inter-academic institutions and are not affiliated with any college. However, the teachers and students of each department must first be a member of a college within Oxford. At the same time, the students of each college belong to different departments.

Oxford University does not have a tangible independent campus, but is scattered throughout the city and integrated with the city, so it is described as “a city in the university”. This is due to historical reasons. Since the 11th century, scholars have spontaneously gathered here to carry out teaching research, and the University has gradually evolved with the expansion of scale, rather than in the process of unified planning and construction. Therefore, Oxford is also the only university in the world that has no anniversary of its founding, because the year and date of founding cannot be defined.

The organisational structure of Oxford University has two dimensions: one dimension is the academic level, divided into 59 Departments; the other dimension is the administrative level, divided into 38 Colleges. Each faculty member and student are associated with one Department and one College. This system, quite unique, is called the Collegiate System. Its biggest feature is the decentralisation of power. Each college is responsible for funding, teaching, and research. The university is only responsible for integrating the colleges. The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University also has duties such as attending University ceremonies and the organisation is very similar to the federal system of a state polity.

This system is common in large and comprehensive academic institutions, such as Cambridge University when it was first established.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email info@oxfordstudyabroad.org.uk.