

UK DEGREE APPLICATIONS MADE EASY

MABECS *QuickGuides*



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
APPLYING TO THE

University of Oxford

SPECIALLY CURATED FOR YOU BY



BEFORE WE GO FURTHER...



Who is MABECS

MABECS is Malaysia's most experienced advisory service on UK degrees.

Our service is free of charge.

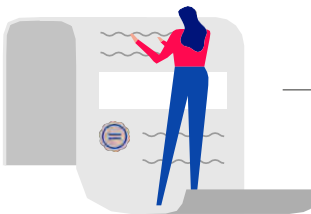


To find out more about MABECS' history and services, turn to the inside back cover. To reach a MABECS Education advisor, call or WhatsApp us at +603-7956 7655 or email enquiries@mabecs.com

From enquiry to successful student placement, **we take care of it all.**

1 Advice & guidance

Find guidance on the right course and university including rankings, research ratings, entry requirements and more.



2

Application

Our experienced UK education advisors will advise you on the required documents and relevant procedures. Note that the application method is different from the postgraduate level.

3 Test Preparation & Mock Interviews

We provide assistance for LNAT, BMAT, UCAT and others tests that might be required by UK universities. We also provide mock interviews for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxford & Cambridge.



4

Air tickets & accommodation

Yes, we also help to provide guidance from flight bookings, visa applications and suitable accommodations to stay in.

Study in the UK!

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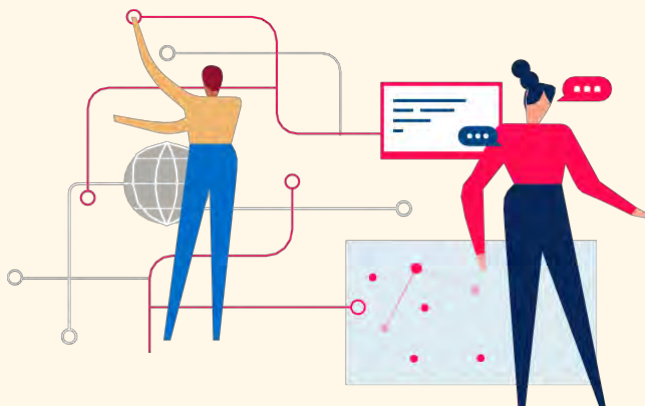
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Have a different set of questions about studying in the UK?

Call us* at **03-7956 7655** to reach us immediately, or email
enquiries@mabecs.com if you're the shy type.

*Our education advisors have all been educated in the UK with over 10 years of experience in counselling. They help provide first-hand information on UK education as well as student life in the UK.



DISCLAIMER

The MABECS QuickGuides are for reference purposes only.

Course content, entry requirements, and tuition fees could change from time to time.

You're advised to check the specific university website for the latest information.

01



BEFORE APPLYING

Oxford or Cambridge: Should I apply?

This QuickGuide is primarily about the University of Oxford; there is a separate QuickGuide for the University of Cambridge. However, you might note the similarities between Oxford and Cambridge.

Oxford and Cambridge are certainly two of the most famous universities in the UK and are the only universities which you cannot put together on your UCAS application. Academic entry levels for these two universities are high and on top of that, competition for places is intense.

But the fact that they are famous and that they are difficult to get into, are not good reasons for applying.

Although Oxford and Cambridge can be very different from most UK universities, they also have many similar features with most UK universities. This means that it's not good enough to say that you'd want to apply to Oxford or Cambridge because "they're famous", or that "they're different". Before making your decision to apply to either of these universities, you should study and research the situation carefully so that your decision is based on valid and wise reasoning.

Both Oxford and Cambridge are collegiate universities so the sense of community is very strong, as you spend three or four years in the same College, living and socialising with the same group of people, who are studying a wide range of subjects. Durham University, for example, has a similar, strong collegiate organisation; but at Oxford and Cambridge, the colleges have a tutorial role as well.

All degree courses at both of these universities have a strong theoretical base upon which applications are developed.

One of the features of the academic opportunities at Oxford is the considerable number of joint degree programmes available.

We hope you'll consider these points carefully before making your decision. If you'd like to find out more on the differences and similarities not covered in this book, please contact our MABECS Education advisors.

Oxford Colleges

Successful candidates will receive an offer from a College at Oxford, not from the university. When applying to Oxford, students can make an "Open Application" that does not specify a particular college. Alternatively, you can choose to apply to a specific College if you have strong reasons for doing so (beware of weak reasons: e.g. travelling time – Oxford is an awesome city; the college has a nice name; etc.).

All applicants should read the College entries in the Oxford prospectus, or the College websites at www.ox.ac.uk, because to do yourself justice in your application, you need an understanding of what College life is about. That after all is one of the important reasons for applying to Oxford.

Applicants can choose to make an "Open Application". The University of Oxford website indicates:

"you are welcome to choose an open application on your UCAS form. This will mean that your application will be assigned to a college or hall that has relatively fewer applications for your course in the year you apply. In 2023, 16% of applicants made open applications. Tutors have no preference for direct or open applications: they are looking for the best applicants for their course. However, once your application has been allocated to a college, this is final"

If you choose a College which is "famous" for something – alumni, a subject or a building – you should remember that many others will apply for the same reason and the number of applicants may be higher than average as a result.

Colleges outside the City Centre are St Hugh's, Lady Margaret Hall, Mansfield, Keble, St Anne's, St Catherine's, and Somerville. All the other undergraduate colleges are in or around the centre of Oxford, but Brasenose, Queen's, Magdalen and University (known as Univ. for short) are also on "The High". What is "The High"? OK - look it up!

When doing your research, in addition to the resources on the University website, a useful contact is the Oxford University Malaysia Club: <http://www.oumc.org.uk/>. Members are usually happy to share their experiences and insight with you.

Engineering Science at Oxford



The Engineering Science programme is a four-year course, leading to the degree of Master of Engineering. The first two years are devoted to core topics and in the third and fourth years there is scope for specialisation into one of six branches of engineering: Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Information and Mechanical. Decisions about which of these will be your specialisation can be deferred until the third year. In the fourth year, there may be opportunities to study abroad. The course is accredited every four years by the major engineering institutions in respect of the initial requirements for the designation of chartered engineer.

Science Programmes at Oxford



The Science subjects have a more specialised base than those at Cambridge, which means that your subject decision is made when you apply for a place.

The following are examples of Oxford Science subjects: Biochemistry (Molecular & Cellular), Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences (Geology), Experimental Psychology, Materials Science, Physics.





Law at Oxford

It is not only the title - "Jurisprudence" - that makes Law at Oxford different, but also the syllabus, material presentation and learning style.

It is not true that there are no lectures to attend, but they are not the backbone of the course. The main teaching method is through group discussions of one, two or three students with a tutor (i.e. tutorials) and this is what makes Oxford different from Law Schools anywhere else in the world.

The syllabus is chosen for its intellectual interest rather than the frequency with which the points discussed arise in practice. It is not simply about what the law is, but why and whether it should be so, how it could be changed and so on, and it draws on moral, economic and other ideas. So preparation for the weekly tutorial requires a tremendous amount of prior reading and thought.

Although a fully qualifying law degree, there is no assumption that graduates will wish to be lawyers but the skills learned in researching and presentation are eminently suitable for many careers. Read all about it on the university's website.

Students will also be required to sit for the LNAT (Law National Admissions test for Law: www.lnat.ac.uk) Please also refer to the MABECS QuickGuide for Law.

The selection criteria are based on the qualities required of a successful law student. Throughout the admissions process, tutors look for evidence of a candidate's motivation, capacity for sustained academic work, reasoning ability and communication skills.



Economics at Oxford

There are a number of different degree structures allowing you to study Economics at Oxford.

PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a whole range of careers and activities. Studying Philosophy, you will develop analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically, and be able to apply these skills to questions concerning how we acquire knowledge or make ethical judgements. The study of Politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions in modern societies. It helps you to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis. Economics is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions that together determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of business and the enormous economic transformations throughout the world. PPE at Oxford is a very flexible course which allows you to study all three branches, or to specialise in two after the first year.

The Economics and Management degree examines issues central to the world we live in: how the economy and organisations function, and how resources are allocated and coordinated to achieve the objectives that are set. Economics and management are ideal intellectual partners, each particularly fitted to strengthen and cross fertilise the other. Economics provides the broader understanding of economic activities within which all organisations function; management in turn analyses the characters and goals of that functioning. The lectures and seminars are provided by the Department of Economics and the University's Saïd Business School.

The History and Economics course is designed to equip you with the basic tools of both history and economics, while introducing you to some of the areas that you can study later in more depth. You will be given a wide choice of subjects. Everyone studies Introductory Economics, which is designed to give a solid understanding of the foundations of both micro and macroeconomics. The Economics course is identical to that for Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) and students for both courses are generally taught together.

Other Programmes at Oxford

One of the features of the academic opportunities at Oxford is the considerable number of joint degree programmes. In almost all cases, there is the option to become more specialised in one or two of the subjects in later years, but you should read carefully about any course you are interested in, to make a good application.

For example:

Mathematics+

Mathematics & Computer Science: Mathematics & Philosophy:

Mathematics & Statistics.

Note: This handout is for general information purposes only. You must check the university website for the latest information.



02



APPLYING TO OXFORD

Start here:

Applying to Oxford & the Interviews

If you are applying for next year's entry (i.e. September of next year), international applicants should apply by completing and submitting a UCAS application by 15th October 2025 for September 2026 entry, and by taking a written test and submitting any written work that is required for the subject. **Please note that your school/college may set an earlier internal deadline and you must follow this deadline to allow enough time for references to be prepared and forms to be checked, etc.**

Please look up the University's website, for a summary of any written test or written work requirements, for your subject:

- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests?wssl=1>
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/written-work?wssl=1>



Note: If your school/ college is not a test centre for the Oxford Admissions tests you will need to register with Pearson VUE well in advance in order. Please visit University of Oxford Admissions Tests (OAT) certification testing with Pearson VUE for more details

All shortlisted applicants for Medicine will be invited to travel to Oxford for an interview in December. If you are a shortlisted medical applicant, you **must** attend this interview in Oxford if you would like your application to be considered.

Other shortlisted candidates will be invited to travel to Oxford for interview in December and if they are unable to attend the interview in Oxford, there may be the possibility of Oxford colleges arranging interviews via telephone or Skype (please note the exception above with regards to Medicine, where you **must** travel to Oxford for interview).

Personal Statement

A very important part of your application to a competitive university is the “Personal Statement”. You will write one for UCAS – all universities see your UCAS statement.

For the University of Oxford, you only need to apply through UCAS - there are no additional application forms.

An important part of your personal statement is expressing a genuine interest in the degree/subject you have applied for at University.

Please refer to the MABECS A-Z Guide to Undergraduate Studies for more guidance on Personal Statements.

Do not tell the reader things they know more about than you do.

"Your University has an excellent tradition of teaching law." "Economics is the study of financial mechanisms of development."

Do not be arrogant.

But mention your achievements, successes and interests that are important to you and might be relevant to your activities at the University.

Do not write extravagantly or use "purple prose", or "bluff".

Remember the selector reads hundreds of these statements and has lots of experience.

So be genuine and show real enthusiasm. Applicants are strongly warned against plagiarising material - UCAS runs a plagiarism detection system for all applications.

And keep a copy for your interview!

The interviewer will probably read your statement immediately before speaking to you, and will probably lead by asking about something you have written.



NOTES

03



**FIND OUT
MORE**



If all that information is making you feel overwhelmed, don't worry. You're not alone. Countless students have felt the same way and they've found it helpful to consult MABECS for their UK degree applications. For an overview of our services, check out the Inside Front Cover page.

Here is how your MABECS Education advisor can help you in detail:

1

BEFORE APPLYING

MABECS provides detailed information on:

- UK universities' environment, fees, and facilities
- course structure, content and specialisation
- entry requirements and university standards
- specific university's research ratings and teaching quality assessments



We can also recommend suitable and relevant universities based on your academic results and preferences.

2

APPLICATION

MABECS provides detailed information on:

- undergraduate degree application explained from start to end
- personal guidance for your Personal Statement
- mock interviews
- monitoring the progress of your application
- providing advice at stages where important decisions need to be made
- being the intermediary (middle person) between you and universities if our assistance is required
- counselling sessions with visiting UK admissions tutors and university representatives
- IELTS registration with the British Council

3

PRE-DEPARTURE HELP

MABECS provides guidance on:

- visa applications
- accommodation arrangements
- flight bookings



About Us

MABECS was set up in 1985 to assist students in Malaysia to find suitable places at universities in the United Kingdom.

Since 1985, students we have counselled have successfully enrolled in top UK universities – both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Whether you're an individual student seeking counselling for your UK degree application, or an education institution hoping to achieve the same for your pre-university students, MABECS is here to help.



Visit our website at www.mabecs.com for a quick overview of how MABECS helps students from start to end of their UK degree application process. You'll also find many helpful articles on studying in the UK, including real student stories!

UK degree applications made easy

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Monday to Friday:
9:30am to 4:30pm

**Saturdays, Sundays and public
holidays:** Closed



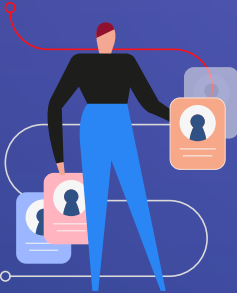
UK degree applications made easy.

We take care of everything in your UK degree application with your cooperation - free of charge.



Student-centered

Our strong student-centered approach to counselling means that we give students the fullest possible information on all available options to help them make sensible decisions.



Free Consultation

Advice, information and assistance with applications, are given free of charge and our Education advisors are always ready to sort out any problems that may arise, and to brief you on preparations for travel to the UK.



Accessible

Our friendly multi-racial, open-access office, can be easily reached by public transport, and no appointment is necessary to drop in and browse through the reference library, talk to a Education advisor, or complete and send an application.