

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.



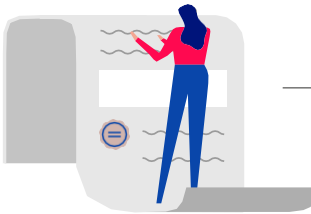
To find out more about MABECS' history and services, turn to the inside back cover. To reach a MABECS Education advisor, call or WhatsApp us at +603-7956 7655 or email enquiries@mabecs.com

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

Advice & guidance

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

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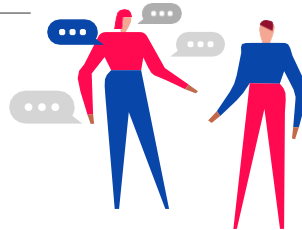
Application

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.

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.

3



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!

CONTENTS

01

BEFORE APPLYING

Oxford or Cambridge: Should I apply?	02
Oxford Colleges	03
Engineering Science at Oxford	04
Science Programmes at Oxford	04
Law at Oxford	05
Economics at Oxford	06
Other Programmes at Oxford	07

02

APPLYING TO OXFORD

Start here: Applying to Oxford &	09
Interviews Personal Statement	10

03

FIND OUT MORE

How MABECS can help	12
Contact MABECS	13

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.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying>

Oxford's admissions process is designed to identify students with the academic ability, curiosity, and motivation to thrive in a tutorial-based learning environment. When we assess applications, we consider all the information available together. Academic achievements, admissions tests, written work, interviews, references, and personal statements are reviewed as a whole to build a clear picture of academic potential and suitability for the course.

Although Oxford and Cambridge can be very different from most UK universities, they also have many similar features. 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 the best". Before making your decision to apply to either of these universities, you should study and research the entry requirements and what Oxford (and Cambridge) are looking for in applicants carefully so that your decision is based on valid and wise reasoning.

Both Oxford and Cambridge are collegiate universities. This means that 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, also has a similar, strong collegiate organisation; although at Oxford and Cambridge, the colleges have a tutorial role as well.

All degree courses at Oxford have a strong theoretical foundation and are academically challenging. The tutorial system that is unique to Oxford (and Cambridge) means that you have very small group work, with 1, 2 or 3 students in a tutorial each week. This means that learning is rigorous and intense as well as incredibly fulfilling and stimulating in a subject that you need to be passionate about.

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

When applying to Oxford, you can apply to a specific college or can make an open application. If the latter, the university will assign you a college because it is the colleges that assess the applications, not the university.

Around a fifth of students make an open application. The university department will play a strong role in ensuring that applicants are assessed fairly and equally across all colleges to ensure that the university as a whole selects the top students regardless of which college was applied to or if an open application was made. This is done through the winter pool system that means that around a third of students who get offers receive them from a college that they did not apply to.

There are over 30 colleges and halls that offer undergraduate courses. Check that a college you are interested in offers the course that you are looking at. They differ in terms of size, facilities, accommodation, location and atmosphere, although there are also many similarities. Research the colleges' own pages on the Oxford website <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/college-life/college-facilities> and check out their social media to get a sense of the culture. You can also reach out to Oxford University Malaysia Club for great advice. <https://www.oumc.org.uk/>

Whilst you will live, eat, socialise and do tutorials in your college, you will still have university department lectures, exams and some tutorials outside of your college. There are many clubs, societies and events in the universities at other colleges, so you will socialise with people from outside of your college.

For the 2026-27 application cycle, all Oxford colleges will conduct online interviews and all are co-educational.

There are 46 undergraduate courses at Oxford. Do some thorough research and consider a listed course, which could be 2 subjects combined, that best suits you rather than pick Engineering, PPE or Law by default.

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 eight branches of engineering: Biomedical; Chemical and Process; Civil and Offshore; Control; Electrical and Opto-electronic; Information; Solid Materials and Mechanics; or Thermofluids and Turbomachinery.

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 course can be three or four years.

The following are examples of science subjects at Oxford: Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular); Biology; Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Computer Science; Computer Science and Philosophy; Earth Sciences (Geology); Human Sciences; Materials Science; Medicine; Physics; Psychology (Experimental); and, Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics.



Law (Jurisprudence) 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. Students can expect to spend over 40 hours a week reading in addition to essay 6-8 hours of lectures, 2 hours of tutorials plus essay writing.

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.

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, critical thinking and analytical skills, reasoning ability and communication skills.

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.

Economics at Oxford



There are a number of different degree structures allowing you to study economics at Oxford. The economics core papers are identical to those for Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), Economics and Management, and History and Economics so students for these courses are generally taught together in the first year.

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. Strong mathematical skills are required for this course in particular.

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, the following combinations are possible for those interested in mathematics: Mathematics; Mathematics and Statistics; Mathematics and Computer Science; and, Mathematics and Philosophy.

Note: This QuickGuide is for general information purposes only. You must check the university website for the latest information as course structures and entry requirements can change each year.



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 2026 for September 2027 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.**

Make sure you check the entry requirements for your subject on the official Oxford University website as some courses have admission tests, written work requirements or at interview reading given. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying/guide-for-applicants/admissions-tests>

From 2026, Oxford will be using the UAT-UK administered admission tests of TMUA, ESAT and TARA. These cannot be done in your school and you need to register at Pearson's UAT-UK portal. <https://esat-tmua.ac.uk/>. You must take the tests between 12th and 16th October 2026 and you can only sit the tests once in a cycle. Booking closes on the 28th September but you are strongly advised to book early to get your preferred date and venue once booking opens on 20th July.

Students applying to Law (Jurisprudence) must sit the LNAT test, booked through the official LNAT website <https://lnat.ac.uk/>, before 15th October. Booking is only open 1st August to 15th September. Do not book an exam on the deadline as it is advisable to have the option to reschedule an exam to one a few days later in case you are ill.

Students applying for Medicine must sit the UCAT test, booked through the official website of <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>, during the booking window of 23rd June to 16th September, and you are strongly advised to book early as some venues can get booked up. You must sit the test between 13th July and 24th September. Do not book an exam on the deadline as it is advisable to have the option to reschedule an exam to one a few days later in case you are ill.

MABECS also offers advice on preparing for and completing admission tests in its BEAM Pod podcast on Spotify, and provides supplementary mock tests and seminars.

Personal Statement

A very important part of your application to a competitive university is the “Personal Statement”. is the Personal Statement. You write one statement that is read by all 5 universities that you apply to through UCAS. You cannot write separate statements or different courses or universities. Unlike Cambridge, there are no additional essays or application forms.

Top universities read your PS carefully to assess your passion for your subject, academic ability and potential and suitability for the course. It must be at least 80% academic in focus and demonstrate, with examples, why you will make a great Economics and Management student at Oxford for example.

You should ensure that you

- Use concrete examples to show rather than tell the admissions tutor that you are passionate about PPE, for example;
- Discuss aspects of your super curricular exploration of the subject outside of the classroom that is of a high level - not just to A Level;
- Show what you think about a book or idea and you don't just repeat what the author's theories are;
- Demonstrate that you have or are developing, with concrete examples from your activities, the transferable, hard and soft skills needed to succeed as a PPE student at Oxford, for example;
- Don't lie on it or exaggerate - you may be asked about your PS in an interview; and,
- Don't use AI, other PSs or other people's opinions in your PSs - this must have your personal voice in it (and the universities use AI and plagiarism checks).

MABECS has a guide on writing Personal Statements (PS) and we can help you by reviewing your drafts.

Interviews

For all Oxford undergraduate courses, the interview is an important part of the assessment process. Currently, all interviews are online and will be done by the college to which you applied to or were assigned.

You may have one 40 minute interview with 2,3 or 4 interviewers, or, as in the case of PPE, three shorter interviews with 1 interviewer in each. You may be invited for a second round of interviews at a different college due to the winter pool system designed to result in the best applicants across the whole university receiving offers regardless of the college that they initially applied to.

Oxford University and each department provides a lot of advice on the interview structure and what they are looking for. The official departments also often provide sample interviews on YouTube and colleges can offer useful tips on their social media accounts such as Jesus College, Oxford, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge and Trinity Hall, Cambridge).

MABECS also offers interview advice in its BEAM Pod podcast on Spotify, and provides free and supplementary mock interviews.



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

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

MABECS SDN BHD 198501011041 (143492v)

B-07-03 Block B West, PJ8
No. 23 Jalan Barat, Seksyen 8
46050 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia.

T +603 7956 7655

M +6017 339 7453

E enquiries@mabecs.com

W www.mabecs.com

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.