# ATLAS SUMMER COURSES



# A MORE AMBITIOUS SUMMER STARTS HERE.

Sharper thinking. Greater independence. A clearer sense of what's next.

| DURATION | WHO IT'S FOR | LOCATIONS | SUBJECTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1–2 weeks | Ages 9–24 | Oxford, Cambridge, Harrow | 40+ |

FORMERLY KNOWN AS OXFORD SUMMER COURSES

WELCOME

# Atlas Summer Courses is the new name for a summer families already trust.

The name has changed. The programme has not. The courses, the tutors, the colleges and the team behind them continue exactly as before. Atlas Summer Courses is formerly known as Oxford Summer Courses.

We started in 2010, founded by two Oxford graduates who wanted young people to spend a summer developing their own ideas rather than working through a syllabus towards an exam. Since then more than twenty thousand students have completed a course with us, in more than forty subject areas, coming from over a hundred and fifty countries.

What has stayed constant is the shape of the thing. A student picks one subject. They spend a fortnight on it with a tutor who knows the field, in a class small enough that they cannot sit quietly at the back. They read, they write, they defend what they wrote, and they revise it when someone shows them a better argument.

Parents tell us the change they notice is not academic knowledge but bearing: a student who reads more carefully, argues more precisely, and has a clearer idea of what they want to study next.

Our courses are award-winning, and we are a certified B Corp, meeting the highest social and environmental standards. In our most recent survey 87% of students said they had grown in understanding and confidence. Those are useful numbers, but the first phone call home is the one parents remember.





# IN THEIR WORDS

“The first year I deposited a little boy at the science programme. He came out after two weeks a young adult. It lets a student explore subjects before committing to what they want to pursue later in life. Five minutes after he left, he asked if it would be fine to go back the following year.”

LORD PIETTE · MALAYSIA

# More from our families

REVIEWS

"My daughter enjoyed it so much. She has new friends, her learning scope has widened, and most importantly she knows clearly what her goal is."

YAN LISA ZHOU · CANADA

"Two weeks on one subject, with a tutor who read everything I wrote and told me exactly where the argument fell apart. I have never worked that hard or enjoyed it that much."

OXFORD ALUMNI

"I especially gained from the tutorial-style seminars, as opposed to a lecture. We were expected to learn the material beforehand, then have a three-hour discussion based on what we had read. This experience opened my eyes to what learning can be. The small class setting made it possible to engage with my tutor, to ask questions and delve into answers."

MEGAN KLEE · USA · TRUSTPILOT



Rated **Excellent**

434+ reviews

Trustpilot

SECTION TWO



# WHY ATLAS

In a small class there is nowhere to hide. Students ask better questions, defend their ideas out loud, and find out how much more they are capable of.

# Teaching



## Tutors who inspire, not just qualify

Every tutor holds or is completing a postgraduate degree, and many teach at leading universities during term time. They are chosen through a multi-stage interview that tests teaching ability as hard as it tests subject knowledge, because knowing a field and being able to open it up for a sixteen-year-old are different skills.

In our 2025 end-of-course survey, 93% of tutors were rated four out of five or higher by their students.

## Small classes, individual attention

Seminars cap at twelve students. Tutorials run in groups of three or fewer. A tutor knows within days where each student's reasoning is strong and where it needs pushing, and teaches to that rather than to a class average.

This is not passive education. Students are expected to contribute, to question, and to defend what they have written, which is the habit that separates confident university students from quiet ones.

## Teaching by discussion and tutorial

Students prepare work independently, then discuss it in depth with a tutor who will challenge their assumptions, expose gaps in their reasoning, and push them to think more rigorously. That intensive, personal feedback is the fastest route to improvement we know.

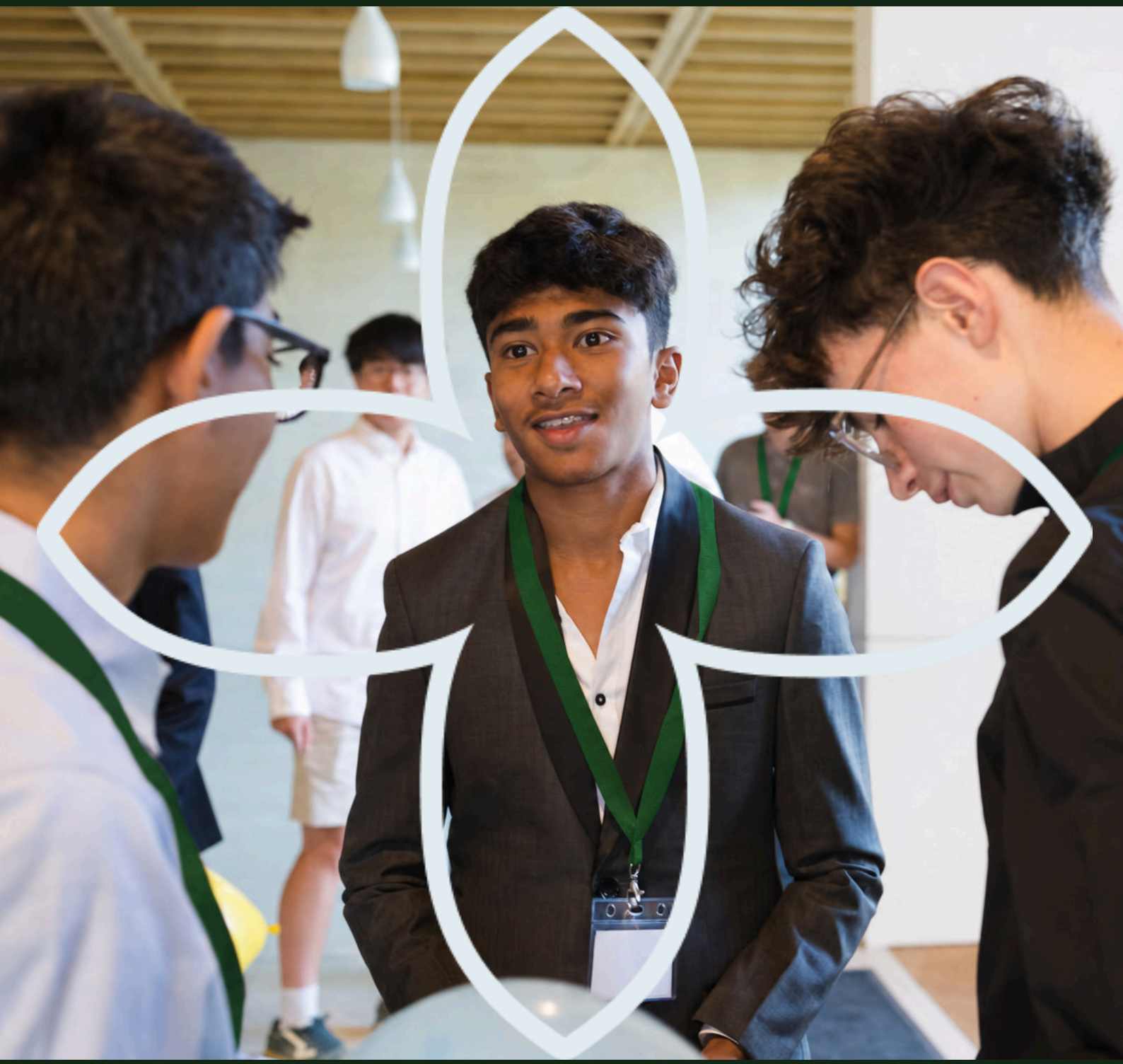


12
SEMINAR CAP

3 or fewer
TUTORIAL GROUP

93%
TUTORS RATED 4+ OF 5

SECTION TWO



# LEARNING APPROACH

Every course is split by age group, so a nine-year-old and a nineteen-year-old are taught in ways that suit them. The ambition is the same in both rooms.

# Explorers and Scholars

AGES 9–14 · HARROW

| DURATION | TEACHING | CLASS SIZE | BOARD |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1–2 weeks | 4 mornings a week | 15 maximum | Full board |

These courses are built to spark curiosity, build confidence, and introduce topics a student is unlikely to meet in a normal school week. Lessons are interactive by design: there are no wrong answers and no silly questions, and we actively want students talking.

Students have lessons on four mornings each week in a class of no more than fifteen, with a break each hour so concentration holds. Teachers are experienced with this age group and pace the room accordingly.

Afternoons and evenings are structured: activities, a weekly masterclass on skills like resilience and communication, a day trip, a movie night, and a prize-giving on the final Friday.

For many students this is a first residential summer away from home, which is often the part parents value most. Full board, resident staff and a fixed daily rhythm mean independence arrives in manageable doses.

**EXPLORERS · AGES 9–12**

One-week programmes in two bands, ages 9–10 and 11–12. Classes of up to fifteen, four teaching mornings a week, and a strong social and activity programme alongside.

**SCHOLARS · AGES 12–14**

A two-week programme for ages 12–14, with more independent work set between lessons and two masterclasses each week.



# A first taste of studying seriously

AGES 13-15

| DURATION | TEACHING | SESSION | LOCATIONS |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 weeks | 4 days a week | 3 hours | Oxford, Cambridge |

Four days a week, students have a three-hour taught session with their tutor in a small group, with a short break in the middle. These are discussions rather than lectures. A tutor will want to know what a student thinks about the question on the table, so they should arrive ready to say it.

Between sessions the tutor sets independent work: set reading, a problem sheet, or a piece of writing. To get the most out of the fortnight, a student needs to put in as much effort outside the room as inside it.

Once a week there is a masterclass led by course staff, mixing students from every subject area. These are for the skills that carry across subjects: resilience, problem solving, and explaining an idea clearly to someone who does not share your assumptions.

The course is intensive, but the point is depth rather than volume. Two weeks on one subject, in a supportive small class, gives a student space to examine their own ideas instead of collecting facts.



# Beyond the seminar room

ENRICHMENT

Learning does not stop when the seminar ends. Students attend masterclasses on the skills that carry into any degree and any job: working in a team, communicating an argument, thinking critically under pressure.

They hear from speakers about career pathways, and have structured time to reflect on their own goals rather than simply collecting another certificate for the file.

There are excursions and evening activities: punting, a day trip to London, an evening at the open-air theatre. Students visit other colleges and see how student life in these cities actually feels.

Every course closes with a formal dinner and graduation, which is when most students realise how much has changed in a fortnight.

## Questioning that tests the reasoning

Tutors work through rigorous dialogue: state your position clearly, support it with evidence, and revise it when a better argument arrives. That requires intellectual humility, and it is why students improve so quickly. The goal is not to win the exchange but to reach a better understanding, which usually means finding out precisely why an answer was wrong.





# COURSES

Over 40 subject areas across three locations. Students choose one and stay with it for the fortnight. Courses fill in the order applications arrive.

# Juniors Courses

AGES 9–14 · HARROW

| COURSES | WHO IT'S FOR | DURATION | CAMPUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Ages 9–14 | 1–2 weeks | Harrow |

### Creative Writing
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Enterprise
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### History
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Law
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Maths
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Medicine
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Science
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

### Technology
EXPLORERS 9–12
SCHOLARS 12–14

## What is included

- All teaching and academic content
- Accommodation
- All evening meals
- All day trips and activities
- Prize-giving and graduation
- Disco night
- Airport transfers (conditions apply)
- Travel and medical insurance
- Access to our online course preparation platform
- Welcome pack: backpack, notebook and water bottle



Sample course list. For the current list of available courses and dates, please visit www.atlassummercourses.com. Every subject runs at both levels. Explorers and Scholars are taught separately.

# Courses

AGES 13–15

| COURSES | SUBJECTS | DURATION | CAMPUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | 25 | 2 weeks | Oxford, Cambridge |

## Sciences and Medicine

| | |
|---|---|
| Biology | **Oxford** |
| Biology and Chemistry | **Oxford** |
| Biotechnology and Genetics | **Cambridge** |
| Chemistry | **Oxford** |
| Environmental Science | **Oxford** |
| Medicine | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Natural Sciences | **Cambridge** |
| Neuroscience | **Cambridge** |

## Business and Economics

| | |
|---|---|
| Business and Economics | **Oxford** |
| Business and Entrepreneurship | **Oxford** |
| Economics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Leadership | **Oxford** |



## Maths, Engineering and Technology

| | |
|---|---|
| Architecture | **Oxford** |
| Computer Science | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Engineering | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Mathematics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Maths and Physics | **Oxford** |
| Physics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |

## Humanities and Writing

| | |
|---|---|
| English Literature and Creative Writing | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| History | **Oxford** |
| Media Studies | **Cambridge** |
| Philosophy | **Oxford** |

## Law, Politics and Society

| | |
|---|---|
| International Relations and Politics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Law | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Psychology | **Oxford · Cambridge** |

Courses run for two weeks, with start dates from late June to mid-August. Students wanting a longer stay can apply for more than one course on the same application form.

Sample course list. For the current list of available courses and dates, please visit www.atlassummercourses.com.

# Courses

AGES 16–17

| COURSES | SUBJECTS | FORMAT | CAMPUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46 | 32 | Seminars, tutorials | Oxford, Cambridge |

## Maths, Engineering and Technology

| | |
|---|---|
| Architecture | **Oxford** |
| Artificial Intelligence | **Cambridge** |
| Computer Science | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Innovation and Technology | **Cambridge** |
| Mathematics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Mechanical Engineering | **Oxford** |
| Physics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Sustainable Engineering | **Oxford** |

## Law, Politics and Society

| | |
|---|---|
| International Development | **Oxford** |
| International Relations | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Law | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Politics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| PPE | **Oxford** |
| Psychology | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Sociology and Anthropology | **Oxford** |



## Sciences and Medicine

| | |
|---|---|
| Biology | **Oxford** |
| Biotechnology and Genetics | **Cambridge** |
| Chemistry | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Environmental Science | **Oxford** |
| Natural Sciences | **Cambridge** |
| Neuroscience | **Cambridge** |

## Business and Economics

| | |
|---|---|
| Business and Entrepreneurship | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Economics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Economics and Finance | **Cambridge** |
| Leadership | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Marketing and Media | **Oxford** |

## Humanities and Writing

| | |
|---|---|
| Art History | **Oxford** |
| Classical Civilisation | **Oxford** |
| Creative Writing | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| English Literature | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| History | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Philosophy | **Oxford** |

Sample course list. For the current list of available courses and dates, please visit www.atlassummercourses.com.

# Advanced Courses

AGES 18-24

| COURSES | SUBJECTS | LEVEL | CAMPUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 41 | 27 | Specialist | Oxford, Cambridge |

## Maths, Engineering and Technology

| | |
|---|---|
| Architecture | **Oxford** |
| Computer Science | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Innovation and Technology | **Cambridge** |
| Mathematics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Mechanical Engineering | **Oxford** |
| Physics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Sustainable Engineering | **Oxford** |

## Humanities and Writing

| | |
|---|---|
| Art History | **Oxford** |
| Classical Civilisation | **Oxford** |
| Creative Writing | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| English Literature | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| History | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Philosophy | **Oxford** |



## Sciences and Medicine

| | |
|---|---|
| Biology | **Oxford** |
| Biotechnology and Genetics | **Cambridge** |
| Chemistry | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Environmental Science | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Medicine | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Neuroscience | **Cambridge** |

## Law, Politics and Society

| | |
|---|---|
| International Development | **Oxford** |
| International Relations | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Law | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Politics | **Oxford** |
| Psychology | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Sociology and Anthropology | **Oxford** |

## Business and Economics

| | |
|---|---|
| Business and Entrepreneurship | **Oxford · Cambridge** |
| Economics | **Oxford · Cambridge** |

Over two weeks students examine one area of their subject in detail, guided by a specialist, engaging with current research and more sophisticated theoretical frameworks than an undergraduate first year would meet.

Sample course list. For the current list of available courses and dates, please visit www.atlassummercourses.com.

# How a fortnight actually works

AGES 16–24

These courses are intensive and intellectually demanding. They are built to resemble university study, where most of a student's development happens not in the classroom but in the hours spent reading, thinking and writing alone.

## Seminars

18 HOURS

Six three-hour sessions across the fortnight, capped at twelve students. The tutor guides discussion, introduces the key concepts, and pushes the room to think critically. Participation is not optional: a student who has not done the reading will have nothing to say.

## Independent study

20+ HOURS

Academic papers, book chapters or problem sets before every seminar, and an essay or problem sheet prepared for each tutorial. This is where understanding consolidates and where the academic habits universities expect are actually built.

## Tutorials

2 HOURS

One hour each week, alone or in a group of three. The tutor has read the work in advance and spends the session taking it apart: why that argument, what evidence supports the conclusion, what alternative reading has been missed.




### A TUESDAY IN OXFORD

A provisional shape rather than a fixed schedule: timetables differ by age group, subject and location, and full drafts for each age band are available on request.

| | |
|---|---|
| 08:00 | Breakfast and morning sign-in |
| 09:30 | Seminar — three hours with your tutor, with a break in the middle |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:30 | Reading and essay preparation |
| 16:30 | Masterclass — communication, teamwork and critical thinking |
| 18:30 | Dinner in hall |
| 20:00 | Punting, a college visit, or an evening at the open-air theatre |
| 22:30 | Sign-in and lights out |



# STUDENT LIVING

Students live where they study, in accommodation hired for the programme, and are taught in classrooms in the same buildings. Some rooms sit in parts of a college dating to the sixteenth century; others are modern.

# Where students live

OXFORD · CAMBRIDGE · HARROW

## Oxford

In Oxford, students live at Somerville College, St Anne's College and St Hilda's. Each room has a bed, a desk and storage, and it becomes a quiet base between seminars, excursions and evenings with new friends from around the world. Standard rooms share a bathroom with up to three others, and en-suite rooms are available for those who want a private bathroom.

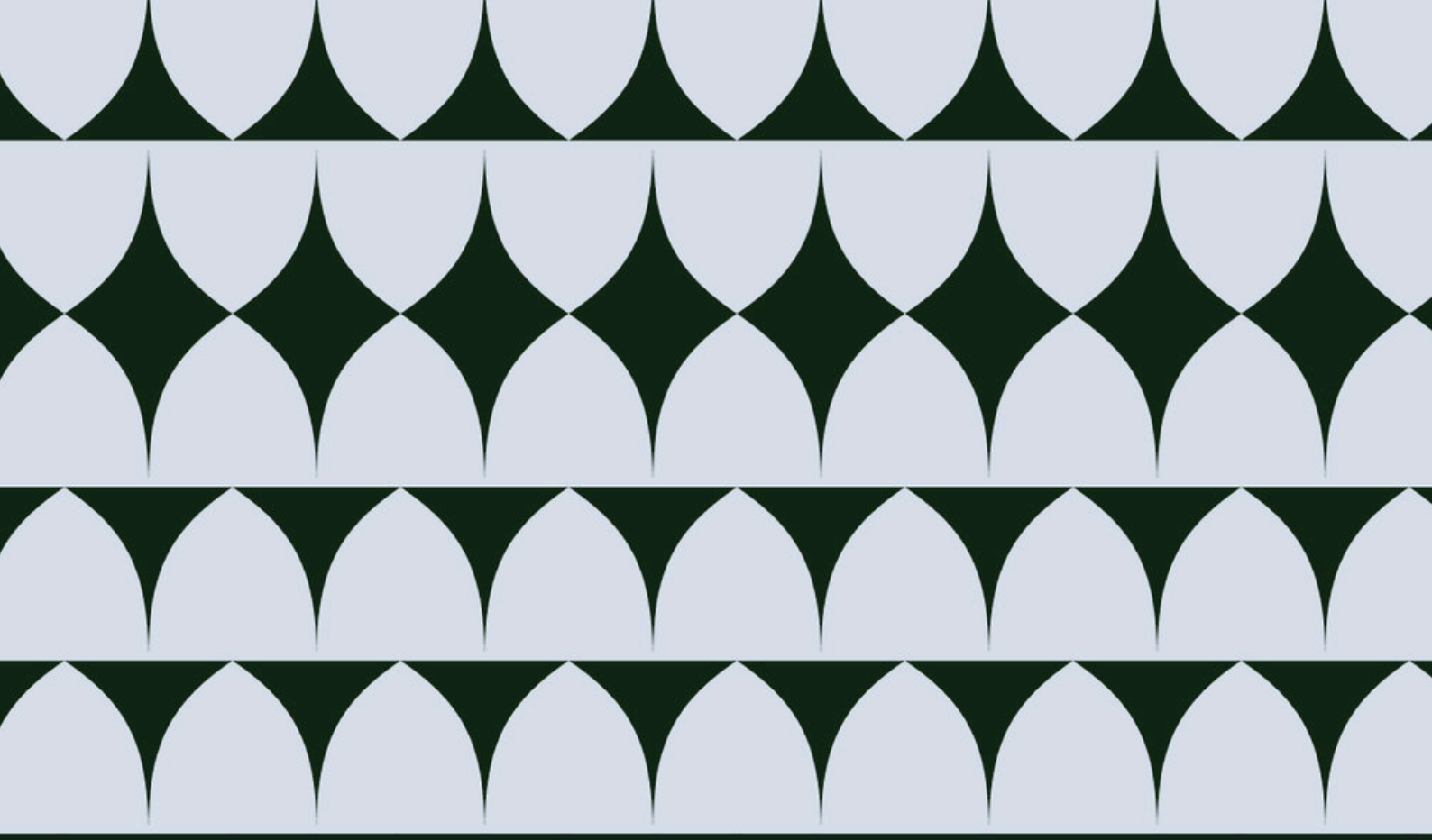
## Cambridge

In Cambridge, students make their home at Sidney Sussex College, and Newnham College. Rooms are allocated by age group and package and range from shared to single occupancy, so every student has a comfortable place to rest, reflect and prepare for the day ahead.

## Harrow

Our youngest students, aged 9 to 14, stay at Harrow School, one of Britain's most historic boarding schools. Juniors and Scholars live in separate boarding houses, in single and twin rooms arranged by gender. Experienced house parents provide 24/7 care, and regular room checks give families peace of mind while students grow more independent.





# ELITE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES IN EXTRAORDINARY SETTINGS

Applications are now open for summer 2027

Visit www.atlassummercourses.com for current prices and dates.

Apply Now

Atlas Summer Courses is an independent organisation which contracts with the University of Oxford and its colleges for the use of facilities. It is not part of, and is not authorised, approved, endorsed or otherwise associated with, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, or any of their colleges.