Information for Prospective Applicants

Hertford College, Registered Visiting Student Programme
Welcome

from Will Hutton, Principal of Hertford College

At Hertford College we value the new perspectives and diversity you bring as visiting students to our college community.

We welcome you to apply to Hertford College, which prides itself on its ethos of fairness and opportunity and, in 1974, was one of a group of five all-male colleges first to admit women students, initiating the transformation of the University of Oxford into a university of co-residential colleges. In 2014/15 Hertford celebrated the 40th anniversary of first accepting women students by substituting its gallery of male portraits with photographs of its distinguished women. One of the other hallmarks of Hertford College is that it is friendly and welcoming. The main site is situated right in the heart of medieval Oxford and its buildings and courtyards are relatively small and intimate. Consequently, you are always bumping into lots of people, so it is very easy to make friends.

Some famous Hertford alumni over the centuries include William Tyndale who translated the bible into English; the poet John Donne; political philosopher Thomas Hobbes; essayist and satirist Jonathan Swift; novelist Evelyn Waugh, and Justice of the US Supreme Court, Byron White. Eminent women connected to Hertford include Professor Dame Kay Davies, Governor of the Wellcome Trust; Baroness Mary Warnock, philosopher and advisor on ethics and education, and Jacqui Smith, the first female Home Secretary in England and one of three women to hold a great office of state.

Will Hutton, Principal of Hertford College

The Principal of Hertford College is the economist and leading public intellectual, Mr Will Hutton. His books include the best-selling The State We’re In (1995), The Writing on the Wall: China and the West in the Twenty-First Century (2008), Them and Us: Changing Britain – Why We Need a Fair Society (2010) and most recently How Good We Can Be (2015). He is an Emeritus governor of the LSE and the Ditchley Foundation, and has received honorary degrees from over a dozen universities. His review for government ‘Fair Pay in the Public Sector’ was published in 2011, and he has conducted independent reviews comparing Britain’s education and training with EU countries, NHS Accountability, the BBC, the creative industries and Britain’s public and private ownership structures. He is currently chairing a review into the future of the third sector. He was editor-in-chief at The Observer from 1996 to 2000 for whom he continues to write a weekly column.
The Visiting Student Programme at Hertford College

Hertford College runs a welcoming and high-quality Visiting Student Programme and accepts up to twenty-five visiting students per term. We encourage students to come for a year as this allows for greater social and academic integration but if this is difficult we also welcome two term applicants for the spring and summer terms or single term applicants for the fall. Princeton Students from the Woodrow Wilson School always come for the full fall semester.

If your application to Hertford is successful, you are accorded the status of ‘Registered Visiting Student’ at the University of Oxford and you will receive a university student card. This will enable you to access the Bodleian Library, all faculty libraries and Hertford College library, as well as give you the right to attend all lectures and seminars open to Oxford undergraduates. Visiting students at Hertford are therefore treated like University of Oxford undergraduates both academically and socially. You will have tutorials like our Hertford undergraduates, you will be included in college subject seminars and you will have access to college and university societies and sports facilities.

Academic Life

The Oxford Tutorial System

The tutorial system is the hallmark of Oxford teaching and visiting students highlight tutorials as one of the most rewarding aspects of their time at Hertford. The tutorial is an intensive and very personal form of teaching, lasting for an hour and involving one-to-one or one-to-two tuition. It is intellectually stimulating, effectively developing your analytical abilities as a student and enabling you to pursue your particular interests in a topic.

Tutorials are based upon independent study in the library. Each week you will research and write a short essay in answer to a particular question. The arguments presented in your essay will be used as a jumping-off point for a lively tutorial discussion between you and your tutor. You will be expected to defend your essay in the tutorial and it is the tutor’s job to help you develop your ability to argue clearly and logically. In common with Hertford undergraduates, your tutorial tutors will be college employed academics (fellows and lecturers) or academics from other colleges and academic departments within the university.

As a visiting student you will have the same programme of tutorials as a full time Oxford undergraduates. During the eight week term you will have twelve tutorials, each lasting for one hour. These are divided into two sets which can cover one or even two academic disciplines; for example, you might choose to take a primary tutorial in English and a secondary tutorial in Philosophy. The primary set will consist of eight tutorials and the secondary set will consist of four tutorials.

Photographer: David Tolley
Hertford College has everything an international visiting student can ask for: a rigorous and rewarding academic environment, a myriad of extracurricular activities, a genuinely welcoming college community, and a phenomenal support system. The tutorial system is unique. The Tutor for Visiting Students was extremely helpful, enabling me to study international development through the many lenses of sociology, anthropology, law, politics and economics. The discussions I had with my tutors trained me to critically question traditional philosophies and to creatively construct my own arguments. Before coming to Hertford, I had never felt so passionate about development studies. Oxford is not only about academic work. I took up college rowing, which was a great way to get involved in the college community, and I rowed in the famous collegiate (bumps) racing of ‘Torphids’ and ‘Summer VIIIIs’ as well as the Head of the River race on the Thames in London. Furthermore, I joined university-level organizations, such as the Oxfam student group and Oxford Microfinance Initiative, where I met students outside of Hertford who shared my interest in international development. Following my final term, I volunteered in Kenya for a month with Oxford’s Initiative, where I met students outside of Hertford who shared my interest in international university-level organizations, such as the Oxfam student group and Oxford Microfinance Initiative, where I met students outside of Hertford who shared my interest in international development. Following my final term, I volunteered in Kenya for a month with Oxford’s Travel Aid program. Studying for a year at Hertford was one of the best decisions I have made and I sincerely wish all of you reading this will decide to participate in Hertford’s Visiting Student Programme and have an experience as incredible as the one I had this year.

Ekaterina Stankova
Visiting Student from Smith College
January to June 2012

My experience as a Visiting Student for Hilary and Trinity 2012 terms at Hertford College proved to be very intellectually stimulating. During my time at Oxford I had the academic freedom to delve deeper into the Politics and Economics topics I studied as part of the PPE programme I pursued while at Hertford. Meetings with my tutors developed my argumentative skills and made me academically bolder. My paper on IR in the Cold War inspired me to write an undergraduate thesis on the topic of the Cold War once I returned to Smith College for my senior year. Considering all this, I wholeheartedly state that Oxford was highly academically rewarding. One thing I also learnt during my stay was that intellectual development at Oxford continues outside of one’s academic endeavours and tutorial work. Specifically, my interaction with Oxford students was a life-changing experience. For instance, I served on the Trinity Term General Committee of the Oxford Investment and Finance Society (OIFS), where I met a variety of very smart and determined individuals. My communication with them also inspired me professionally. The lectures and networking sessions with professionals from the City, organised by the OIFS committee, helped me to realise how many more career options I have upon graduation. I feel the exchange of ideas is one of the most powerful aspects of Oxford; it is what makes Oxford unique and it is something which never stops, even when one leaves a tutorial.

Choosing your tutorial topics

You need to choose your tutorial topics with care to ensure that they fit in with your degree requirements at your home university, so do please consult with your academic advisors before you submit your application form.

As a visiting student at Hertford College you are free to choose from a wide range of courses within the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Tutor for Visiting Students is happy to advise you on tutorial choices. If you are planning to do a senior year thesis, tutorials provide an excellent opportunity to begin your research for this.

Examples of topics chosen by previous visiting students include:

- Renaissance Literature
- Modern British Drama
- Victorian Literature
- Moral Philosophy
- Theory of Politics
- Political thought from Bentham to Weber
- Politics of Europe
- Politics of China
- The History of Witchcraft
- Geography and the Environment
- Philosophy and Economics of the Environment
- Urban Geography and Poverty
- Anthropology of the Body
- Medieval Latin
- Public International Law
- Criminology
- Japanese Literature
- The Human Ecology of Health and Disease
- 20th Century French Literature
- Analysis of 20th Century Orchestral Music
- History of Art: the Impressionist Painters

Pre-sessional Seminars - The Princeton Programme

As a Princeton student joining from the Woodrow Wilson School you can apply to come to Hertford for the fall semester of your 3rd year. You will come to Hertford at the beginning of September and participate in a seminar on the History of Modern Britain. Discussions are stimulating and lively and former students have appreciated the firm grounding which the seminar offered them in British political and cultural history. It will also prepare you very well for your tutorials, which begin in October, as well as giving you a chance to settle in before the term begins.

The Humanities Seminar - Students applying for the fall term only

Students applying through Arcadia or IFSA-Butler for the autumn term only, have a new opportunity to arrive in September for the pre-sessional Humanities Seminar run jointly by Hertford and Worcester Colleges. This intellectually rigorous seminar will focus on classical and English literature (and explore how we depict human consciousness and experience). It will make the fall term option comparable in substance and duration to an American semester and will acclimatise you to Oxford and to Oxford tutors’ expectations prior to your tutorials in October.
The lecture programme at Oxford is rich and varied. As a Registered Visiting Student you are entitled to attend all lectures within the university, including the Special Lectures given by eminent academics and people in public life who have been invited by different faculties.

Libraries

You will be issued with a university card that gives you access to the Bodleian Library, which is the University of Oxford library, as well as to the faculty libraries and to the Hertford College library.

Oxford is an academic cornucopia—however, what most prospective prospective visiting students do not initially realise is that Oxford offers an array of opportunities outside of academic study that are as rich and varied as the Bodleian’s offerings.

During my year at Hertford some of the most fulfilling experiences came from writing for the Cherwell newspaper, rowing for and playing for a handful of other Hertford teams, serving as Treasurer of the Hertford Business & Economics Society, and frequenting events held by the Oxford Union, Jewish Society and Finance Society. Other visiting students sang in the Hertford choir, wrote for a literary journal, and joined a multitude of other societies. Perhaps my best opportunity was to do research for a don over the summer; I had the great fortune to split my summer between Johannesburg, London and Oxford, doing research for Hertford Fellow, Professor Tomo Suzuki on the modernisation of retail banking structures in Africa. Don’t limit your eight week term to just tute work—explore the rest of Oxford!
Assessment and grading of your work

As a visiting student you are in the fortunate position of not having to take examinations, as Oxford examinations only occur at the end of the full three year degree course. So you can fully relax and enjoy studying for the sake of it.

Your tutors will write a report for you at the end of term for each set of tutorials. This report comments on your progress and achievement during the term and takes into account your written work and your contribution to tutorial discussions. Tutors will give a percentage grade which reflects your total work over the term. You will be graded in accordance with Oxford standards and the International Programmes Department will translate your percentage grade into its alphabetic equivalent. The tutorial reports, together with the percentage grade and alphabetic grade, are typed onto transcripts which are sent from Hertford College to your home university or college. You will also be given your own copy of the report; previous students have found them very useful to include in graduate school applications.

End of term meetings with the Principal and Senior Tutor

As a visiting student you are included with Hertford undergraduates in Principal’s Collections. This comprises an individual meeting at the end of term with the Principal of the college, Senior Tutor and Tutor for Visiting Students to briefly talk about your academic progress that term and to chat about the activities in which you have been involved.

Zach Lewis:

Visiting Student from The University of Michigan

October 2012 - June 2013

Tutorials:

Philosophy and Physics

My time spent at Hertford, in my opinion, was the most valuable and enjoyable part of my undergraduate studies. I had travelled from Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan, to Oxford, where I studied Physics with the fresher cohort. My experience was perhaps a bit different than a lot of the visiting students in that I studied under the same schedule as the first year students, going to the same tutorials and attending the same lectures. This was not always true, though, as in my final term when I took the opportunity to study philosophy, a choice that I highly value even today. The teaching at the college is phenomenal. My tutors were all excellent professors but also good friends, whom I still remain in contact with. The intimate teaching structure of the courses really allows for you to improve your skills with a focus that I did not see in the American system. Outside of academics, the opportunities to get involved in a number of societies allowed for me to explore Oxford on a level I had not expected. I personally was involved in the Hertford Boat Club and also the Poker Society, both of which allowed me to get to know many of the students around college. Additionally, the amount of social events were astounding, and the various college balls every year are definitely worth the price of entry. I could not recommend my experience at Hertford more. The learning experience was incomparable, the social life was always welcoming, and Oxford is an absolutely beautiful city.

Matthew Reese:

Visiting Student from The College of William and Mary

January – June 2012

Tutorials:

19th Century History and 20th Century Music

Hertford’s greatest strength, as faculty and students will be quick to tell you, lies in its people. While the roots of Hertford College are some of the deepest in the University, the College remains a dynamic and innovative centre for teaching and scholarship. Most of all, its members exude a warmth and inquisitiveness that I, and many of my classmates, found immediately welcoming. My six months at Hertford were deeply rewarding—intellectually, musically and socially. Through the college’s music society and chapel choir, I found an immediate group of friends and colleagues. My visiting peers and I also enjoyed dual membership in the middle and junior common rooms, allowing us to develop relationships with our fellow undergraduates, while still getting an appreciation for graduate life. Hertford’s central location in Oxford, especially its proximity to the Bodleian Library, is a tremendous asset, and there are few things more satisfying than leaving a busy day of study to enjoy a cup of coffee by the fire in the MCR’s beautiful ‘Octagon’.

Through Hertford, I enjoyed one-on-one weekly tutorials with some of the finest musicians and historians in the university. I was challenged by my professors to refine my analytic approaches, to expand my knowledge of contemporary scholarship, and to hone my own writerly style. My work in Oxford continued the strands of inquiry I had begun at William and Mary, and well-equipped me as I returned home, embarking on my senior year and honors thesis.

Most of all, I felt privileged to be a member of this beautiful and wonderfully eccentric institution—quiet early morning walks through Christ Church meadow; the sound of peal bells ringing along the High Street; candlelight Compline; black tie dinners and undergraduate gowns—all of these images constitute the rich tapestry of life in Oxford. Your time in Hertford will be defined by hard work, but also by deeply rewarding experiences and friendships.

All of this is aided by the tremendous work of Dr. Josephine Reynell, Tutor for Visiting Students, and the staff of the International Programmes Office. They were a great help to me as an undergraduate, during my application process for graduate study, and they continue to be regular and welcome faces now that I’ve returned to Oxford for another two years to study for a Master of Philosophy in Music (Musicology).
Orientation Week

The International Programmes Department organises all aspects of your stay as a visiting student and is available throughout your time here to help and support you. We run a special orientation week when you arrive to help you settle in and integrate into college life. On your arrival day, you will be met by two of our undergraduate students who will show you to your accommodation. You will then have time to rest or explore the city centre.

Hertford undergraduate students will arrange to have dinner with you and the other visiting students that evening. It’s a nice way of getting to know other students and finding out more about student life in Oxford.

Orientation week officially begins the day after you arrive. The day will start with a welcome meeting led by the Tutor for Visiting Students and the Visiting Student Administrator.

Throughout the rest of the day individual meetings will be scheduled to discuss tutorials with the Tutor for Visiting Students. This information will be enclosed in your welcome pack. At 12:30pm there will be a welcome lunch, where you will meet the rest of our team and other staff members and students in college. Lunch will be followed by a Hertford College library induction and a meeting with our IT Department.

For the rest of the week you will have a full timetable which will include:
- Subject library inductions
- Meeting other teams in College (Nurse, Chaplain, Housekeeping etc.)
- Welcome drinks with the Principal
- Freshers’ Fair (Michaelmas Term only)
- Meeting the JCR (Junior Common Room—undergraduate body)
- Meeting the MCR (Middle Common Room—graduate body)
- Group tutorial meeting with the Tutor for Visiting Students

Your week concludes with a convivial brunch in the main dining hall organised by our JCR International student representative, which gives you the opportunity to meet your Hertford College ‘family’ (‘buddy’ system).
Accommodation

As a visiting student at Hertford College you will be in your second or third year at university, so we house you near students who are at similar stage of academic life and with whom we therefore expect you will have most in common.

You will be housed in Hertford College accommodation located in the South of Oxford, which offers stunning views over the River Thames and Christ Church College Meadows. All rooms are single study bedrooms, with internet access and self-catering facilities. Visiting students live either in graduate en-suite rooms or in our second and third year undergraduate housing.

The ten minute walk to college takes you past some of Oxford’s landmark sights, beginning with the graceful meadows of Christ Church College and the medieval cobbled street of Merton Lane. Crossing the High Street, you pass the University Church of St Mary the Virgin (whose tower affords one of the most impressive bird’s eye views of Oxford) and the imposing white stone walls of All Souls College, which is opposite the unusual circular reading rooms of the Radcliffe Camera (part of the Bodleian Library).

Meals

Meals can be taken either in the main dining hall at Hertford College or in our Warnock House dining hall. A large variety of excellent food is served in both dining halls; meals are low-priced and great value as they are subsidised by Hertford College. Many students find that eating in the college dining halls is a great way to integrate and meet new people. You also have access to shared kitchens in your accommodation where you can cater for yourself if you wish.

Throughout the year there are various celebratory meals organised by college and greatly enjoyed by visiting students. Hertford holds two formal, candle-lit dinners in college each week, known as ‘Formal Hall’. These are great fun and popular with undergraduate and graduate students. Visiting students are also invited to informal buffet suppers with the Principal during the week.

A particular highlight of the autumn term is the Thanksgiving Dinner, held in the main dining hall, to which our visiting students are invited. At the end of the academic year our farewell to all of Hertford’s visiting students is marked by a special English afternoon tea, which includes delicious scones, cakes and sandwiches.
The welfare of visiting students is taken very seriously at Hertford College. We recognise that it is not always easy getting used to a different academic system and we are well aware that being far from home in a different culture can be difficult at times.

**Academic Welfare**

The Tutor for Visiting Students acts as both your Director of Studies and your Personal Tutor. She will liaise with university teaching staff to organise your tutorials for you. She meets each of you personally on your first day to explain how the tutorial system works and discusses how to organise your academic schedule. You will have regular meetings together throughout the term to discuss how your work is going and these meetings provide good opportunities to talk through any worries or difficulties that you might encounter.

**Personal Welfare**

When you arrive in college you will be met by two Hertford College students who will help you settle into your accommodation and show you around on your first evening in Oxford. The warmth and friendship of these students is much appreciated and frequently remarked on by our visiting students. The International Programmes team are dedicated to the Visiting Student Programme and support you throughout your time at Hertford. Hertford prides itself on welfare so it’s important that students know they are well cared for.

**The College Nurse, Counselling Service and Undergraduate Welfare Officers**

You will meet the College Nurse in your first week and she will explain where she is based in college and inform you of her surgery hours. You can go and see her for free throughout your time here. She will firstly assess you and if needed refer you to our College Doctor. If you are here for more than 6 months you are able to avail yourself of the National Health Service; if you are here for less than six months then you will have to pay for visits to the doctor, but you should be able to claim this on your medical insurance. The Nurse is a trained counsellor so she is able to give skilled advice to those who are finding university life far from home particularly difficult. Visiting students can also use the University Counselling Service and both the JCR and the MCR have specially appointed male and female Welfare Officers who are available for help and advice.

**The College Chaplain**

A particularly enjoyable occasion in your first week is tea with the College Chaplain. The Chaplain is another very important member of our welfare team and all students are welcome to meet with the Chaplain throughout term, regardless of any religious affiliation. You can see the Chaplain for advice or a supportive chat.

You will also be introduced to the Junior Deans. These are graduate students, one of whom lives in your accommodation building—yet another person from whom you can seek advice and support.
Social Life

When you arrive at Hertford College you will be welcomed by students from both the undergraduate body, the JCR, and the graduate body, the MCR. All visiting students are included in the college ‘family’ system (which is similar to the ‘buddy’ system in most other universities) so right from the beginning you will have students in college who you can contact.

The best way to get to know people is to join in with the many activities on offer. Both the JCR and MCR have regular social events, such as ‘bops’ (dances), jazz nights and film nights, and these are good occasions to have fun and meet people.

Many visiting students have found that college sports clubs are another enjoyable way of participating in college life and keeping fit at the same time. The college has—for women and men—a rugby club, a football club, a rowing team, and a volleyball team. If you like racquet sports there is a badminton club and a squash club, and in the summer there is a tennis team. We also have a small gym located at our main site.

If you like singing you can join our lively college choir. Hertford College chapel has some of the best acoustics in Oxford so it is a real pleasure to sing in the choir for the various weekly chapel services. Previous visiting students have commented that joining the choir is an excellent way of making new friends among Hertford’s undergraduates; especially since, the choir eats formal college dinner together after Sunday Evensong. There are also some exciting opportunities to travel beyond Oxford with the choir: visiting students have travelled with the choir to sing in Westminster Abbey, Budapest and Vienna.

You can choose from a wide variety of university societies to join. Just to give you an idea, our former visiting students have joined the fencing club, cycling club, golf club, poetry society, boxing club, Socrates society, brass band society, Scottish dancing society and the University Orchestra. Do visit the University Clubs website on http://oxforduni.groupspaces.com/groups/ to get an idea of the range of activities on offer. Students who start in Michaelmas term will be given tickets to the Freshers’ Fair where each club has a stall to publicise their activities.
As a visiting student at the University of Oxford, you are able to join the Oxford Union Society. The Union is the world’s most prestigious debating society, with an unparalleled reputation for bringing international guests and speakers to Oxford. It has been established for 189 years, aiming to promote debate and discussion not just in Oxford University, but across the globe.

The Union is steeped in history. It was founded in 1823 as a forum for discussion and debate, at a time when the free exchange of ideas was a notion foreign to the restrictive University authorities. It soon became the only place for students to discuss political topics whilst at Oxford. W.E. Gladstone, later to become one of the greatest British Prime Ministers, was one of the leading figures of the Union’s early years. Gladstone was President of the Union in 1830, shortly before entering the House of Commons. Many others have followed him into politics, and the Union can boast dozens of former members who have been active in its affairs whilst at Oxford and then gone on to become both nationally and internationally prominent figures.

Unlike many other student unions, the Oxford Union holds no political views. Instead, the union is a forum for debate and the discussion of controversial issues. For example, in the 1960s, Malcom X came to the Union and demanded black empowerment “by any means necessary”. In the 1970s, Richard Nixon in his first public speech after Watergate admitted, “I screwed up and I paid the price”. In the 1980s, Gerry Adams, still under his television ban, addressed the Union’s members.

In Michaelmas 1996, O.J. Simpson made his only public speech in Britain after the controversial “not guilty” verdict in his criminal trial. The Oxford Union believes first and foremost in freedom of speech: nothing more, nothing less...

Matthew Goldman:

Visiting Student from Swarthmore College, January – June 2014.

Tutorials:

Urban Geography – The Study of Space, Political Sociology, Anthropology – Cultural Representations and Belief, Anthropology of the Body – Gender and Sexuality.

My experience as a Hertford College Visiting Student during the spring of 2014 was unparalleled intellectually and personally. It is difficult to comprehend the degree of opportunity and excitement that Oxford’s one-on-one tutorials entail, even coming from an American liberal arts college. In my Hilary term urban geography tutorial, I explored topics that truly fascinated me with a tutor who has written key texts and who guided me to see issues in new ways. An anthropology tutorial in Trinity term, taught by a scholarcurator at Oxford’s esteemed Pitt Rivers Museum, encouraged me to consider museum representations while we held our weekly conversation on the floor of the museum itself. More than anything, I benefited from the community of visiting students. Living in the Graduate Centre I met some of the most intelligent, interesting, and lovable people anywhere; and I made truly lifelong friends. Living on the Thames bank and walking through Christ Church meadow didn’t hurt either. I will always feel fondly about my time at Hertford.

Danielle Pingue

Visiting Student from Princeton University, Sept - Dec 2011

Tutorials

Social Policy and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa

Upon first arriving at Hertford College in Oxford, I was greeted by my exuberant college ‘mother’. Part of a longstanding tradition at the College, second year ‘mums’ and ‘dads’ were provided to help Freshers get acquainted with the university. As I was a study-abroad student and not a Fresher, I felt a bit out of place when I first landed at Oxford. My fears of not being able to fit in with my new community were quickly wiped away once I met my surrogate mother and the host of individuals sent by the Visiting Students’ Department at Hertford. With planned events such as the Visiting Students’ Brunch, I was able to make a circle of new friends who shared their interests with me and inspired me to try out the many unique activities Hertford had to offer. Within the short span of the Michaelmas term I became an official ‘Oxford Blue’ and member of the Oxford University Athletics Club (OUAC), went ‘punting’ along the River Thames with my College mum and members of my study abroad program, played basketball, tried my hand at archery and even went horseback riding with the Oxford University Riding Club. This was all while attending numerous formal halls throughout the different colleges of course! Having a challenging class load that included at times two tutorials, a seminar, a lecture and multiple essays each week while still having the freedom to try new activities made Oxford a truly well-rounded experience for me. While at Princeton it is easy to get caught up in the ‘Orange Bubble’ and lose sight of the range of opportunities available to us; I found that my term at Hertford College afforded me an opportunity for introspection and growth. I enjoyed my experience at Oxford immensely and felt it prepared me to come back to a successful spring semester at Princeton.

Maggie Sulc

Visiting Student from Rice University via Arcadia College of Global Studies, Oct - Dec 2011

Tutorials

Victorian Literature and Literature of WWI

I am sure all of the Oxford colleges work hard to make visiting students feel welcome, but from my experience, Hertford College has to be one of the most open and friendly colleges. They do everything possible to make visiting students part of the college; they included us in all of the Freshers’ Week activities, placed us in college families, and invited us to be members of both the junior common room and the middle common room. As a visiting student, I felt completely welcome in every part of the college. Even though I only studied at Oxford for Michaelmas Term, I made many friends and was able to participate in many Hertford activities such as the Hertford College Boat Club and the Hertford College Chapel Choir. I never would have been able to row in a race at Cambridge or sing in the Brussels Cathedral if it weren’t for the friendly people and new opportunities I discovered at Hertford College. And I do not want to downplay the academics and academic support. Though my Oxford tutorials challenged me, I felt well-supported. The Tutor for Visiting Students chose fantastic tutors who pushed me to do my best work, but still understood that I was adjusting to the Oxbridge system. With the Bodleian and the Radcliffe Camera literally across the street, I was always in the best position for studying. I learned and grew so much after my term at Oxford and I highly recommend Hertford to anyone else looking to study at Oxford.
**Dates of Term and How to Apply?**

**What kind of student are we looking for?**

The kind of student who thrives at Hertford College is intellectually curious, passionate about their chosen topic of study, asks interesting and innovative questions, enjoys working independently, is highly self-motivated and is good at organising their own research time in libraries.

**Places available and the three term system**

Hertford College has places for up to twenty-five visiting students per term. We have a three term system and each term lasts for eight weeks with ‘settling in’ week, called 0th week, occurring prior to the first week of term. Those students here for the year use the vacations as an excellent opportunity to explore Europe. You will be expected to return to college on the Thursday of 0th week. Any student who wishes to return earlier can rent their room at a subsidised rate.

**Dates for the Academic year**

For specific dates for the academic year please look on:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/university_year/index.html

- Princeton Seminar students: early September to early December
- Hertford-Worcester Humanities Seminar students: early September to early December
- Michaelmas Term: early October to early December
- Hilary Term: mid-January to mid-March
- Trinity Term: end of April to mid-June

We recommend and welcome full-year applications as this enables you to get the most out of being at the University of Oxford. We also consider students for half-year admission and, in this case, would encourage prospective students to apply for the two-term option (Hilary and Trinity term). This works very well for those who cannot commit to a whole year abroad, as it gives time to settle in and build on what has been learnt in the first term. It also enables students to enjoy Oxford at its most beautiful in the summer term, and to enjoy quintessentially Oxford pastimes such as punting along the River Thames!

We run our Princeton Programme in Michaelmas term for students from the Woodrow Wilson School. Additionally, we have a few Michaelmas term only places for students from other universities. If you are applying for this term we encourage you to come in September for the Humanities Seminar in order to be at Hertford for a full American semester.

**Fees**

Please contact your home university Study Abroad Office for further information.

**Website**

Please visit our website for further information about Hertford College and our Visiting Student Programme:
http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/discover-hertford/visiting-students

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**University Contact Details**

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Hertford College has its origins in Hart Hall, founded in the 1280s by Elias de Hertford. It is one of the oldest of Oxford University’s 38 colleges. Located in the centre of historic Oxford, our beautiful college boasts the Bridge of Sighs, which is one of the most famous sights in the city. We also face the world famous Bodleian Library and the beautiful Sheldonian Theatre, where university degree ceremonies take place.

It maintains excellent academic standards and in 2013-2014 was ranked 7th out of 30 undergraduate colleges in the Norrington Table (Oxford University’s undergraduate college league table).

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