



VISITING STUDENT PROGRAMME

Regent's Park College is a Permanent Private Hall
of the University of Oxford

Regent's
Park College
OXFORD



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"Being a visiting student at Oxford will challenge you to question everything you know, give you the tools to find the answers for yourself, and leave you with the confidence that you're capable of more than you ever thought possible."

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If you would like to find out more about College, arrange a visit or if you are thinking of applying, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

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Welcome

Regent's Park College could be just the place for you. If you want to study abroad on our Visiting Student Programme in a welcoming, friendly community which values academic excellence then look no further.



Put simply, our mission is to create an exceptional community of learning and research made up of individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and life experiences. Our Visiting Students make a valuable contribution to our mission, increasing the diversity and depth of that community. Everyone at Regent's is focused on achieving excellence in undergraduate and graduate studies, ministerial formation and academic research. If you want to be part of this diverse and vibrant college community which has a huge passion for life both in college and in the wider University then make an application to the Regent's Visiting Student Programme.

We are proud of our unique place in Oxford's collegiate system and our contribution to the University's truly international community. Regent's concentrates on teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences which means that we contribute to Oxford's worldwide reputation for excellence in these areas. The facilities and learning experience at Oxford are second to none. Our tutors deliver teaching of the highest standard whilst retaining personal and individual interest in all of their students. Visiting Students join our full-time undergraduates in achieving excellent academic results. In 2009 one of our undergraduates was awarded the top first class degree in Theology in the whole University. In recent years first class degrees were also gained by students in Classics, English, Classics & English, Geography, History, Law, Philosophy and Theology, PPE and Theology.

Regent's is in the heart of Oxford. Our beautiful quad offers a retreat from the bustle of the city but also puts you minutes from everything you will need as a visiting undergraduate.

We look forward to welcoming you to Regent's Park College and think you will find what you are looking for in a College and Visiting Student Programme right here.

Dr Robert Ellis
Principal



Introduction

Located in the heart of the city and University, Regent's Park College is famed for its friendly atmosphere and the outstanding achievements of its undergraduates, both within and beyond academia.



Regent's is one of 43 independent, self-governing colleges and halls that make up Oxford University. The collegiate system is at the heart of the University's success, giving students and academics the benefits of belonging to both a large, internationally renowned institution and to a smaller, interdisciplinary, academic college community. It enables leading academics and students across subjects and year groups, and from different cultures and countries, to come together to share ideas.

Regent's encourages students to achieve their potential both academically and socially and provides them with the chance to make the most of their time at Oxford.

Founded in 1810 and originally located in London, Regent's moved to Oxford in 1927 and became a Permanent Private Hall (PPH) in the 1950s. Regent's students are matriculated members of the University. Students are selected for their academic excellence and potential.

The undergraduate community contains individuals from an array of backgrounds, all of whom uniquely contribute to the life of both the College and University. Regent's specialises in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.



Studying at Regent's

Oxford University has always led the world in Humanities and Social Sciences teaching and research so the learning experience and facilities available are second to none.



Regent's is part of this commitment to the provision of exceptional teaching and scholarship. The Oxford tutorial system means that each week students have the opportunity to discuss their work with world-renowned experts from both within Regent's and from the wider University.

The tutors at Regent's are meticulous about the academic wellbeing of their students providing them with regular reports that check individual progress. The reports are sent to your home university so that you have a permanent record of your successful studies in Oxford.

As a student at Regent's, you'll be able to choose to study in the environment which suits you best. One day you might want the peace and quiet of your own room where there is plenty of space and an internet connection, or you might head to the College Library where you'll find a variety of carrels and large tables for individual and group study. When the weather is warmer, you might decide that you want to work on the lawn in the beautiful surroundings of the quad.

Another time, you'll decide to enjoy the short walk or bike ride to one of the Bodleian Library's many reading rooms where you can access any of the millions of books housed in its collections and work alongside other students studying your subject from all over the University. Whatever you choose you'll find your surroundings conducive to the work you'll be doing.

What can I study at Regent's?

Regent's specialises in a range of subjects in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Subjects usually offered to Visiting Students include:

- **Classics**
- **Economics**
- **English**
- **Geography**
- **History: ancient and modern**
- **Philosophy**
- **Politics/International Relations**
- **Sociology**
- **Theology and Religious Studies**



Teaching and learning formats

Like all Oxford students, you will be taught in tutorials. The tutorial lies at the heart of Oxford University's teaching. You will attend lectures and classes as part of your course of study but it is in the tutorial that you will engage most closely and excitingly with your chosen topic and your own ideas.



A tutorial usually lasts for one hour and you will be taught by a tutor either individually or with one or (possibly) two other students. It is a concentrated period of discussion and debate for which you will prepare in advance by completing an assignment such as an essay or a set problem. To make the most of tutorials you must be motivated and organised. Experiencing this method of teaching will improve your independent study skills and help you learn how to defend and debate your ideas. Tutorials will be with College-employed academics – Fellows, Lecturers and advanced Graduate Scholars – and (in common with students on the Oxford full-degree course) you may be tutored by qualified academics in other Oxford colleges.

How much studying should I expect?

You will study one major (8hrs of tutorials) and one minor (4hrs of tutorials) subject each term (8-week trimester). We expect students to study for a minimum of 40hrs per week.

How will these subjects fit into my studies at my home university?

Oxford offers a distinctive form of undergraduate education, unique in the world to Oxford and Cambridge. In the English form of higher education students apply for a 3 or 4-year degree in 1-3 subjects and they study those subjects exclusively. At Oxford, they do so in depth, and to a very advanced level. We do not have 'general education' or 'core curriculum' requirements that, for example, require humanities students to do science courses.

Visiting Undergraduates must be in their Junior year in the time that they are at Oxford because that means you have chosen your major and minor and have the level of knowledge that will allow you to take subjects offered to Oxford's senior undergraduates. This gives you the opportunity to explore and study aspects of your chosen major and minor in depth.



Libraries

The College Library at Regent's, which is open 24/7, has core collections in all of subjects taught here.

"Late nights in the Regent's library and many communal meals now make up some of my fondest memories of Oxford and college life. It is also during Trinity term that the summer eights regatta is held, croquet is played, and the final fling ball is greatly anticipated."

The College's Theology collection is one of the best in the University. The central University Library Information System means that if the book or journal you want isn't in Regent's Library you'll be able to access it somewhere else in Oxford. As an undergraduate at Oxford you have access to an unrivalled number of electronic texts, journals and databases in every subject area. The Bodleian Library and all the relevant Faculty libraries are located close to Regent's.

Regent's is home to the internationally important Angus Library and Archive which comprises over 70,000 printed books, pamphlets, journals and other artefacts.

The collection relates to the life and history of Baptists and nonconformists in Britain and the wider world from the late fifteenth century to the present day. Alongside this unique collection, Regent's also houses the David Nicholls Memorial Collection. Based on the private collection of Britain's foremost expert on the politics and history of Haiti, it has works which deal specifically with Haiti, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean territories.



Computer Facilities

The College has computers and printing facilities in and outside of the Library. The College has a wireless network for use with laptops and other wireless devices. There are also wired internet connection points in all bedrooms in College.





Living at Regent's

Regent's is a great place to live. It is located right in the heart of Oxford close to everything you'll need as a visiting undergraduate.

"The social atmosphere at Regent's was very communal, and I was happy to get involved whenever I got the chance. Whether it be having a cup of afternoon tea or running to rowing practice on the Thames at the crack of dawn, I loved every minute of it."

Accommodation

Visiting Students are usually provided with study bedrooms, along with communal bathrooms and kitchens. Rooms are furnished with a bed, desk, wardrobe, washbasin, a couple of chairs, some cupboards and book space. Wifi is available throughout the College.

Hall

Regent's has a superb Catering Team who make sure that the food is really good. There is also a Catering Committee which comprises both students and staff who provide regular feedback to the Catering Team.

Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are available in the Dining Hall on Mondays-Fridays during term-time. There is a good choice of food at lunch and dinner with vegetarian alternatives. Other dietary needs can be catered for on request.

Each Friday evening during term, dinner is known as 'Formal Hall': students and staff wear gowns and dress more formally. Twice a term there are JCR guest nights on Fridays, and other special occasions include the Advent Dinner, Rowing Dinner and the Final Fling (Regent's Summer Ball).



Student life

Being a student at Oxford consistently challenges you academically so you'll need a place to relax and socialise where you are comfortable and feel at home.



When choosing a study abroad programme it is just as important to decide where you think you'll fit best socially as it is to make sure you secure a place. The sense of community at Regent's is ideal for visiting students, not just because it enables JCR members to be actively involved in College life, but also because it serves as a platform to make the most out of Oxford life.

The Junior Common Room (JCR)

The JCR is the social hub of College. The JCR itself is a really large oak-panelled room on the first floor complete with table football and leather sofas. Adjoining the JCR is the bar which is one of the few student-run college bars left in Oxford. The bar has a large flat-screen TV, a well-stocked free DVD library with a few hundred films and a quiz machine.

The JCR also has the tradition of serving "Brew", consisting of free tea, coffee and biscuits, twice a day. Every Friday night the JCR holds a social event. Whether it's a silent disco or one of the bi-termly parties (Bops), the events are almost universally attended.

JCR members include all students at the College (not just undergraduates), which means that the different students of the Regent's community tend to integrate more than at other colleges. It is from this connection between the different common rooms of College that the strong sense of community emanates.

Outside Regent's, our students have enjoyed representation in all sorts of fields. From Blues sports players to Oxford Union Presidents, from editors and feature writers for the two student newspapers, The Oxford Student and The Cherwell, to being members of the executive for the Student Union's Rag fundraising, Regent's students are everywhere in the life of the University and have a habit of reaching the top of what they choose to do.





Student life

Sports

Regent's Boat Club has a strong, inclusive ethos and always has men's and women's crews in the annual Torpids and Eights week regattas. The success of Regent's crews can be seen in the blades adorning the JCR!

There are also men's and women's football teams and a netball team. If there is a sport that a Regent's student wants to play that is available in the wider University, then they can play for the team of another college. In recent years Regent's students have received blues (represented Oxford against Cambridge in a Varsity Match) in fencing, netball, U21 rugby, cross country, badminton, real tennis and racquets.

Many students take up the offer of subsidized membership at the University Iffley Road gym.

Arts and Drama

Each year the JCR elects an Arts officer and a Drama officer. The Arts officer organises exhibitions, poetry nights and other events. The Drama officer is responsible for organising the annual pantomime and summer play.

Many Regent's students also get involved in the wider University drama scene, including acting, directing and producing. Recently, Regent's students won the opportunity to direct, produce and act in a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Oxford Play House.

Other Societies

As well as the many societies available to all Oxford students, Regent's JCR supports a range of clubs and societies including a law society and the Christian Union. It is possible to start a new club or society with JCR funding by passing a motion at one of the two JCR meetings that occur each term. The JCR also supports a different charity each term and hosts a number of events and sales to raise money.

Mature Students

Mature students at Regent's are admitted into both the Junior Common Room and Middle Common Room which means that they can live among both the undergraduate and post-graduate communities. Due to Regent's size mature students tend to find it easy to integrate into College life.

Visiting the visiting students

Regent's Park's Visiting Student Programme has been flourishing over the past few years. Each term, between 15 and 18 visiting undergraduates, mainly from universities in USA and Europe, study alongside their full-time colleagues, either staying for a whole academic year or for one or two terms.



Visiting students enrich Regent's community in so many ways, from their outstanding academic achievements, to their enthusiasm for drama, music or playing Quidditch and their contributions to our recent outstanding sporting achievements. In the last couple of years a designated JCR rep. for visiting students has emphasised their importance to College and made their welcome even warmer. When the visiting students leave us they have wonderful memories to take with them but they also know that they will always be members of Regent's and that the friendships they made here are strong and long-lasting.

Eight planes, four states, two Brits, and one mission: to visit the visiting students

In our three years at Regent's Park College we have been unable to stop making friends with visiting students. Each term, a casual 'hi' flourishes into a friendship, making it hard to say a final 'goodbye' come the end of term. At the end of our second year we decided that it was time to plan a journey to the USA to pay a visit. The trip would give us a taste of the Deep South, the South, the Midwest, and the Northwest, allowing us to meet up with around thirty former visiting students.

Michaelmas Term of our final year ended, and our US adventure began. Atlanta, Georgia was our destination. The first game we played on American soil was 'count the guns', this was fun, but we soon lost count and were excited to be reunited with our friend from Columbus State University who had come to pick us up. Our days were filled with sight-seeing, relaxing, Southern food, and an unlimited supply of sweet (iced) tea. We visited Martin Luther King's childhood home, one of the churches he served as a minister, and the Atlanta Civil Rights Museum.

After three days in Georgia, we began the journey to our second destination, Kentucky. We drove through Tennessee, stopping at Chattanooga, and driving past Nashville. As we drove through rural Tennessee on a Wednesday afternoon, we were surprised to find that the only thing we could pick up on the car radio was a sermon broadcast! On arriving at Georgetown College, we were greeted by an assortment of friends who had all come to Regent's for different terms over the last couple of years.

After our stay in beautiful Kentucky, we took a flight from Louisville to Kansas City, Missouri changing at Chicago. Our friend from William Jewell College met us at the airport and presented us with fast food called 'Taco Bell', which she informed us tasted better drunk. The sleeping arrangements for the first night could only be described as a triple bunk-bed, and the rest of our time in Kansas City was equally companionable.

Our final destination was Seattle, Washington in the Pacific Northwest. Our friends from Pacific Lutheran University gave us sushi (a big deal in Washington), took us to the midnight premiere of Star Wars, and showed us around Seattle, including the world-famous Space Needle. It was a mild December throughout the country, but the contrast between 20°C in the Deep South and the snow we experienced ten days later when hiking in the Northwest with the PLU guys was astonishing.

A short article can hardly capture the hospitality and kindness we were shown in Washington, and indeed all the states we visited. Perhaps it is not unreasonable to say that in becoming 'visiting students' ourselves, vulnerable bonds of friendship were renewed. So step up visiting students, we await your next visit. You will find a mattress on the floor, a cup of tea in your hand, and we will no longer call you a 'visiting student' – you will simply be a friend.



Applications

Am I eligible to apply?

Regent's Park College admits students on the basis of academic excellence and potential. There is no typical Regent's or Oxford student; we welcome students from a huge array of different backgrounds.

Academic requirements:

- **GPA (or equivalent) 3.7 and above**
- **If English is not your first language you must satisfy the University's language requirements**

We accept applications for a whole academic year as well as one or two terms.

What are you looking for?

- Love of learning and ideas
- Intellectual curiosity
- Enjoyment of discussion
- Enjoyment of studying
- Capacity for independent learning
- Reflective approach to learning
- Self motivation and rigour

How to apply

The deadline for applications is the end of February in the academic year before you wish to come.

The Application form can be found on the College website (www.rpc.ox.ac.uk). You must also supply:

- **Two academic references**
- **Transcript or other detailed record of education**
- **One sample of recent written work: approx. 2,000 words**
- **Personal statement: approx 500 words outlining why you want to study at Oxford**



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"If your journey in life is a dedicated pursuit of knowledge, then Oxford is your destination."

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