

Geography at Cambridge and Oxford



Student Conferences 2011



Geography at Oxford

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for information on the Geography course at Cambridge please visit their website

Why Geography?

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

- You enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures.
- You enjoy learning about the environment, how it functions and how people interact with it.
- It's important that students are interested in both human and physical geography.
- You are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills.
- You are seeking a broad based academic degree, offering above average graduate employability.

<http://www.rgs.org>

Why is Oxford special?

- The School of Geography and the Environment has been ranked joint top Geography department (along with Bristol, Durham and Cambridge) in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).
- Integrates human and physical geography
- Opportunity to specialise / interdisciplinary focus
- Lectures, practical classes, weekly tutorials and fieldwork
- Contact with international experts in the department's research clusters

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE INSTITUTE
Centre for research, outreach and graduate studies in environmental change and management

 **TRANSPORT STUDIES UNIT**
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Facilities and Societies for Geographers at Oxford

Excellent Lab Facilities

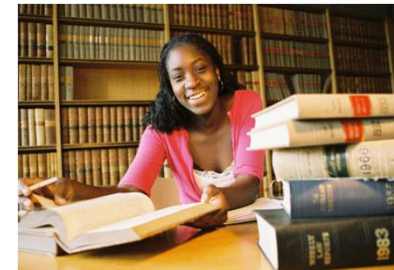
- Oxford Rock Breakdown Laboratory
- Oxford Luminescence Dating (OLD) Laboratory
- Oxford Long Term Ecology Laboratory
- Full training and assistance provided

World Class Libraries

- Bodleian Library
- Radcliffe Science Library / college libraries
- Bodleian Map Room
- Online Resources (e.g. WebLearn)
- Bibliographic Skills Training

Departmental Committees and University Societies

- Wide programme of seminars and some specific events organised for undergraduates
- Joint Consultative Committee for Undergraduates
- Ambassador Training Schemes
- Herbertson Society for Geographers



Teaching and learning

- Lectures; 7 – 8 hours per week for 1st years
4 – 5 hours per week for 2nd and 3rd years
- Practicals; 1.5 hours per week for 1st years on geographical techniques
Bibliographic skills training / geographical techniques practicals for 2nd years
- Tutorials; generally 1 tutorial per week
- Fieldwork; 2 one day fieldtrips in Oxford for 1st years
1 two week residential fieldtrip during the Easter vacation for 2nd years
Independent dissertation fieldwork during the summer of your 2nd year
- Independent Learning; geographical controversies folder, fieldwork reports, 3 x 5,000 word extended essays, 1 x 12,000 word dissertation,

Course Structure (First Year)

Year 1 – First Public Examination (Prelims)

- Earth Systems Processes
- Human Geography
- Geographical Techniques
- Geographical Controversies

Earth Systems Processes

- Introduction to Earth Systems Processes
- Geomorphology
 - Tectonics, geology and geomorphology, fluvial and dryland environments
- Climatology
 - Atmospheric composition
 - Mechanisms and variability of the climate
- Ecology
 - Energetic and biogeochemical controls
 - The changing geography of life
 - Understanding biodiversity across continents and islands



Human Geography

- Introduction to Human Geography
- Economy and Transformation
 - Economy and Transformation
 - Economic Transition, Inequality and Health (with reference to China)
- Culture and Society
 - Global Futures, Youth and Social Geography (with reference to India)
 - Cultural Geography
- Territories and Identities
 - States and Borders in 21st century Europe
 - International Migration, Diasporas and Contemporary Globalisation



Geographical Techniques

- Earth Observation and Application in Geography
 - Remote sensing
 - Earth observation and applications in geomorphology and climatology
 - Sampling and measurement
- Qualitative Methods for Human Geographers
 - Research design
 - Interviews, participant observation and focus groups
- Quantitative Techniques (Statistics)
 - Descriptive and spatial statistics, hypothesis testing, correlations, regression



Accompanied by practical classes and fieldwork in Oxford.
Students submit a fieldwork folder as part of their assessment.

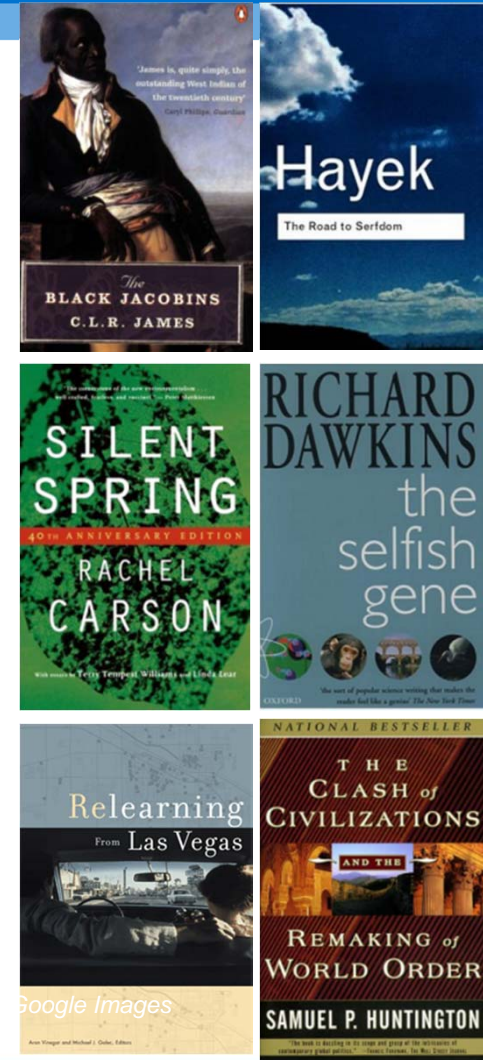
Geographical Controversies

The course focuses on geographical controversies past and present, and the importance of a critical understanding of the use of evidence and data in geographical argument.

The kinds of questions the course asks:

- How do social factors such as class, race and gender mediate expertise and authority?
- What is most important in scientific enquiry: data or theories?
- How are different kinds of evidence used in the resolution of controversies?
- Why is controversy an important part of scientific enquiry?

Students submit a practical folder as part of their assessment, containing a PowerPoint presentation and a 1,500 word essay on a geographical controversy.



Final Honour School Course



© Rob Judges

Years 2 & 3 – Final Honour School

- Geographical research (compulsory paper)
- Choice of two out of three foundational papers:
 - Space, place & society (human)
 - Earth systems dynamics (physical)
 - Environmental geography
- Three options
- Dissertation (12,000 words)

Students take a residential fieldtrip over the Easter vacation of year 2 to Tenerife or Berlin.

Human Geography special subjects

- Contemporary India
- European Integration
- Northlands
- Geographies of Finance
- Spaces and Power in Africa
- Spaces of Politics
- Transport



Note: These subjects are either currently offered or are being planned for next year. Not all subjects may be offered in any one year.

Physical / Environmental Geography special subjects

- Biogeography, Biodiversity and Conservation
- Climate Change and Variability
- Dryland Environments
- Quaternary Environments
- Forensic Geography
- Heritage, Conservation and Management
- African Environments




Note: These subjects are either currently offered or are being planned for next year. Not all subjects may be offered in any one year.

Some dissertation topics...


12,000 words

A GEOGRAPHY OF HIGH-ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLAND: THE ROLE OF SELECTIVE STATE SCHOOLING




UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD CANDIDATE NUMBER: 49866
SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION IN JUNE 2009
WORD COUNT: 12,003

The effect of the Manchester Metrolink Extension on Improving Social Inclusion in Oldham



Candidate Number: 46682
Word Count: 11,651

The avifaunal biogeography of the Blackdown Hills, England: a comparative evaluation of incidence functions




University of Oxford Candidate Number 40992
Submitted for Examination in June 2007
Word Count 12022

Dividing Climate Change: How do postcolonial political geographies permeate the Indian national press' portrayal of climate change?



Words: 11,715
Candidate 46892
For FHS Geography 2008


Invisible Cities
The Production of Space in New York's Modern and Postmodern Urban Fiction



Candidate number: 52929
Year of Finals: 2009
Word count: 11496


Chemical weathering and carbon dioxide drawdown by an Alpine glacier

University of Oxford Candidate number: 45359
Word Count: 10660
Submitted for examination in 2008




2008

The Empty Pocket
A study of food price shocks and survival strategies in urban Malawi



Candidate Number 5054
Undergraduate Dissertation 2009
Word Count 11994

HIV/AIDS in Rwanda: An Investigation into Household Coping Strategies in Rural Populations




Candidate Number: 52576
Word Count: 11,569

'Basic igneous shore platforms: a comparison of bioerosion and bioprotection in Northern Chile and the Isle of Mull'

Candidate Number: 11575
Word Count: 11,969
Final Honours School Geography
2002

Decolonising conservation strategies in Australia: The Adnyamathanha people and Nantawarrin Indigenous Protected Area



Oxford University Centre for the Environment
FHS Geography 2009
Word Count 11,009
Candidate Number: 37038

The Admissions Process



14 Oxford colleges admit Geography students:

Brasenose, Christ Church, Hertford, Jesus, Keble, Mansfield, Regent's Park, St. Anne's, St. Catherine's, St. Edmund Hall, St. Peter's, St. John's, St. Hilda's, Worcester.

- AAA at A – Level
Geography not a requirement.
- IB 38 – 40 points, usually 7 in
Geography

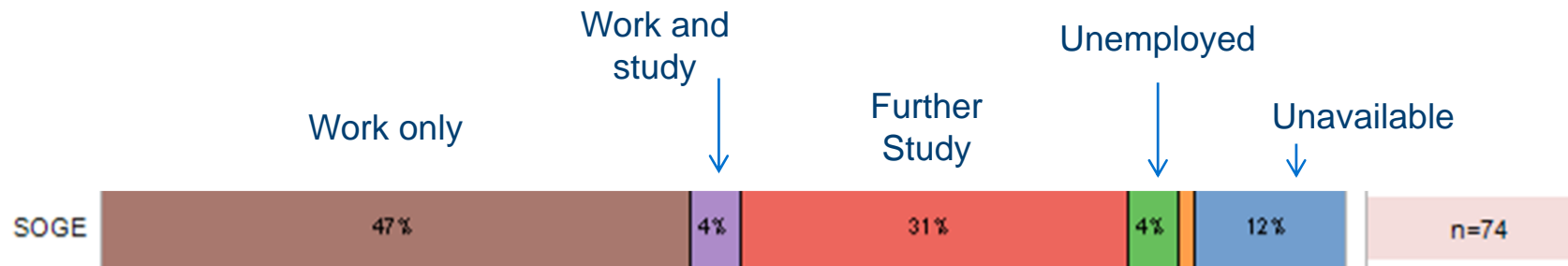
80 – 90 undergraduates
admitted each year

Yet to be finally confirmed by the University

It is likely that from 2011 all applicants will have to take a TSA test at their school or local test centres before they are invited for interviews at Oxford.
Please look at our website for up to date information.

Careers with Geography

- Further research and teaching
- GIS, cartography, climate modelling
- Forensic Science
- Charity / NGO work
- Civil service
- Law and financial services
- Marketing and advertising
- Town Planning, Site Location
- Environmental Science and Management



Data supplied from Oxford University Careers Service
September 2010

Where can I find out more?



Come to one of our Open Days:

- Departmental Open Day
Friday 13 May, only a few places left
- University Open Days, 6 and 7 July, 16 September, (no need to book)

How to get in touch:

www.geog.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk

School of Geography, Oxford University
Centre for the Environment, South Parks
Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY.
(undergraduate.enquiries@geog.ox.ac.uk)

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- Open days
- Information for current students

Alumni

- Join our alumni network

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Undergraduate Honour School

Welcome to the School of Geography and the Environment Undergraduate Honour School

Geography has never been more relevant, as the world faces increasing challenges, and solutions to human and environmental problems are urgently being sought. Our completely revised Oxford Geography course provides undergraduate students with a wide range of experience and skills across the breadth of geography, based on in-depth teaching from our many expert staff. Why not check out what we offer and see if it matches your expectations of what an excellent geography course should be like?

Prof. Heather Viles, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Listen to Prof. Heather Viles speaking at the 2010 Departmental Open Day

Listen to Dr Craig Jeffrey speaking at the 2010 Departmental Open Day

- How to Apply
- Info for Current Students
- Enquiries

How to Apply

Please read our online guide to [applying to read Geography at Oxford](#) for information on the application process and to find out more about our [undergraduate degree course](#).

Booking now open for 2011 Department Open Day on the 13th of May

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

How to Apply

Learn how to make an application through the University of Oxford website

Podcasts

- Listen to Prof. Heather Viles speaking at the 2010 Departmental Open Day
- Listen to Dr Craig Jeffrey speaking at the 2010 Departmental Open Day

Course Leaflet

Related Info

- Programme Specification for BA in