

# WILLIAMS-EXETER PROGRAMME AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Director: Professor Sam Crane

## THE PROGRAMME

Williams College offers a year-long program of studies at Oxford University in cooperation with Exeter College (founded in 1314), one of the constituent colleges of the University. Williams students will be enrolled as Visiting Students at Exeter and as such will be undergraduate members of the University, eligible for access to virtually all of its facilities, libraries, and resources. As Visiting Students in Oxford, students admitted to the Programme will be fully integrated into the intellectual and social life of one of the world's great universities.

Although students on the Programme will be members of Exeter College, entitled to make full use of Exeter facilities (including the College Library), dine regularly in Hall, and join all College clubs and organizations on the same terms as other undergraduates at Exeter, students will reside in Ephraim Williams House, a compound of four buildings owned by Williams College, roughly 1.4 miles north of the city center. Up to five students from Exeter College will normally reside in Ephraim Williams House each year, responsible for helping to integrate Williams students into the life of the College and the University. A resident director (and member of the Williams faculty) administers Ephraim Williams House, oversees the academic program, and serves as both the primary academic and personal advisor to Williams students in Oxford.

Students enroll for the full academic year, which consists of three eight-week terms of instruction: Michaelmas Term, Hilary Term, and Trinity Term. Students are expected to be in residence to write their first tutorial papers in the week before the eight weeks of instruction begin (0th Week) and to remain in residence during the week after the term ends (9th Week) in order to sit final examinations. Between the three terms there are two intervening five week vacations, during which students may be expected to continue reading as preparation for their upcoming tutorials. Students are required to arrive in Oxford for Programme orientation.

Students on the Williams-Exeter Programme are required to be in residence in Oxford for three full terms. (They may be away during the vacation breaks between the terms.) Any student who departs early from Oxford without Faculty Director's written permission (given only in truly exceptional, unpredictable situations), will not receive term credit, even if the student submits all required work prior to departure.

For more general information on the Williams-Exeter Programme, go to [exeter.williams.edu](http://exeter.williams.edu).

## THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

Undergraduate instruction at Oxford University is largely carried out through individual or small-group tutorials, in which a student meets weekly with their tutor to present and discuss an essay they have written, based on an extensive amount of reading undertaken from an assigned reading list received at the beginning of each term. In addition to the weekly tutorial, students are strongly encouraged to attend a course of lectures offered by the University that corresponds to the material being addressed in the tutorial. The lectures, however, may be offered in a term different from the one in which the student is taking the tutorial. For that reason, students are encouraged to obtain early in their first term, from the relevant faculty (department), the complete list of lectures planned for the academic year.

Each student will plan a course of study for the three terms of the academic year in consultation with the director of the Programme. In their capacity as the Tutor for Visiting Students at Exeter College, the director, working closely with Exeter's subject tutors, will arrange the teaching for the students, monitor student progress, be in regular contact with the student's tutors, supervise the examinations that students sit at the end of each academic term, and report on each student's academic progress to the Senior Tutor at Exeter College.

There are no "add/drop" periods at Oxford; once a student has made a commitment to a particular tutorial course, and the director has then secured a tutor to teach that course, students cannot back out or change the terms of the tutorial. All tutorials at Oxford are graded.

Students are required to enroll in two tutorial courses during Michaelmas term and two tutorials during Hilary Term (each consisting of eight individual tutorial meetings and generally requiring the preparation of eight essays). During Trinity term, students may choose to enroll in either one or two tutorial courses. Although some students take the minimum of five tutorial courses, most have enrolled in two tutorials per term for a total of six tutorials over their time at Oxford.

## GRADES AND CREDIT

Grades for each tutorial course reflect the work done in all eight tutorial sessions, including their related essays, considered together, as well as the grade for the final examination. Tutorial essays and discussions are typically not assigned a specific grade. Final examinations last three hours and are always sat in the ninth week of term, following the eight weeks of instruction. For some tutorial courses, tutors may elect to offer the student the option of a final paper or project in lieu of an examination or may decide that the final project or examination is not necessary. This decision is made by each tutor, and is not a subject of negotiation.

Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements for the Williams-Exeter Programme at Oxford University, students receive academic credit for a regular Williams academic year, with each eight-session tutorial (plus final examination, if required) counting as the equivalent of 1.6 regular semester courses taken at Williams. Grades eventually become a part of their Williams transcript and will be included in the computation of Grade Point Average. There is no Pass/Fail option for Oxford tutorials.

Tutorial courses in Oxford may be used toward fulfilling the divisional distribution requirement; a student may earn a maximum of three distribution requirements, with no more than one from each division, for the year. All tutorial courses at Oxford meet the Williams College "Writing Intensive" designation, except for those in the studio arts, mathematics, and the natural sciences.

Tutorial courses in Oxford may also be used to meet major requirements. Students are encouraged to check with their department chair(s) to confirm official department policy.

## **THE COURSE OF STUDY**

In addition to the opportunity to pursue British and Commonwealth Studies, Williams students in Oxford will be able to pursue tutorials in fields in which Oxford is particularly noted (Economics, English Literature, Mathematics, Modern History, Philosophy, Politics, Classics, Theology, the Natural Sciences, etc.). Exeter College also has fellows that are committed to teaching Williams students in three fields: English Language and Literature (with a focus on English literature, 1550-1830 and interests in the rise of the novel and women's writing); History (with interests spanning the areas of Atlantic World, Global, Imperial, early American, Latin American and Caribbean History); and Medical Law and Ethics (with interests in ethics and regulation of emerging technologies such as gene drive and use of artificial intelligence in medical care).

Tutorial courses are not offered every term, and are often accompanied by lectures scheduled in a different term. It is therefore imperative that students consult the relevant Faculty (departmental) webpages to make sure when the lectures and/or tutorials they wish to take are actually offered. Sometimes, where appropriate, prerequisites are also listed.

It must be noted that study in the sciences is not normally accompanied by laboratory work; science majors seeking major credit for tutorials in the sciences should discuss this situation with their major advisors. Students interested in learning more about the possible courses of study available at Oxford should contact the Director of International Education and Study Away.

A full summary of the list of courses offered by subject can be found at: [ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/course-listing](https://ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/course-listing). Detailed descriptions of all the courses listed can be found on the websites of respective departments or faculties the links of which can be found at: [ox.ac.uk/about/departments-a-z](https://ox.ac.uk/about/departments-a-z).

## **NON-CREDIT FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY**

In addition to their regular tutorial courses, students may begin or continue the study of a wide range of foreign languages on a non-credit basis through a variety of arrangements available through the University as well as a number of other educational and cultural institutions in the city of Oxford. Students may put funds from their Programme Cultural Subsidy towards such study.

## **APPLICATION**

Admission to the Programme is competitive. Students must apply to the The Office of Global Education and Study Away by the prescribed deadline (January 15th) and, prior to applying, should consult with the department or program chair of their intended major(s). Any questions students might have about curricular offerings at Oxford can also be raised with the director of the Programme in Oxford.

In addition to completing the formal application form, students can expect to be interviewed at Williams and will subsequently need to complete an application for Visiting Student status at Oxford University. All admissions to the Programme are subject to approval by Exeter College. Students can expect to be notified of acceptance before Spring Break. It is normally expected that they will have completed the College's distribution requirement by the end of their sophomore year. In making its decisions, the Admissions Committee of the Williams-Exeter Programme at Oxford University takes student GPA into account, with a general expectation of a minimum GPA of 3.5. More importantly, we expect all applicants to have demonstrated capacity for rigorous independent work and extensive essay writing, and look favorably on those students whose intellectual maturity, curiosity and enthusiasm would best prepare them for a demanding course of study in Oxford. All applicants must identify two Williams faculty members who are willing to provide references. Because of the emphasis at Oxford on weekly written work for each tutorial course, at least one of those faculty members should be able to offer an assessment of the applicant's writing ability.