

Advanced Pre-Sessional Course for Graduate Students 2026

Frequently asked questions Version 1.0



The information contained below is correct as of 26 September 2025.

1. Who is the 'typical' Advanced Pre-Sessional Course student?

Students on the Advanced Pre-Sessional Course typically are already graduates. They come from a wide range of backgrounds; some are wanting to take a course to improve their academic skills, others come straight from undergraduate and postgraduate studies and others are graduate professionals looking for a career change.

2. What is the average age of students on the course?

The majority of our students tend to come from the 21 to 35 age range.

3. Which countries do 'Advanced Pre-Sessional Course' students come from?

Most recently, we have welcomed students from Mongolia, Ethiopia, Oman, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, the UAE, China, Russia, the UK and the USA.

4. Where will the teaching be held?

As stated on the website, all the teaching for the course will be held in the Department's main building at Rewley House.

5. What is the average class size?

This is an intensive course aimed at a small number of students,

6. I have no experience of the subjects taught on the course, like rhetoric or international relations; can I still apply for a place on the course?

Absolutely. Although some of our students have previously studied international relations, the Advanced Pre-Sessional Course assumes no prior specialist subject knowledge of the area. In the past, our students have come from a wide range of backgrounds with degrees in engineering, law, English language and literature, art history, politics and sociology.

7. Will taking this course improve my chances of being accepted for a Master's degree course at the University of Oxford?

You should note that successful completion of the course does not guarantee progression to Master's degree courses at Oxford (or at any other university), for which separate application is necessary. However, many of our students who have successfully completed the course have subsequently been accepted onto a Master's programme at leading Universities in the UK and here at Oxford.

8. I've already completed a Master's degree. May I still apply for a place on this course?

Yes. Many of the students on the Advanced Pre-Sessional course already hold Master's degrees.

9. Can you give me advice on visas?

We regret that we are unable to provide advice on individual visas. Students are advised to consult their closest British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission for the most up-to-date advice. Students should also refer to the University's Visa & Immigration team at

- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa>
- student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk

10. Will I receive a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) letter?

We are unable to provide a CAS letter as these are only issued for accredited courses that meet [these criteria](#). Students have entered the UK in the past under a [Standard Visitor Visa](#), but given the complicated (and ever-changing) nature of the visa system the University has a dedicated team who have the necessary knowledge and training to help you. You can contact them at student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk

11. How many contact hours each week will I have?

The Advanced Pre-Sessional Course is highly intensive. You should expect to receive a minimum of 15 contact hours each week. Additionally, you will also receive an individual academic writing tutorial.

12. Who will my tutors be?

You will be taught by subject specialist academics (politics, international relations), and specialist English language tutors.

13. What is included in the total fees of £6,975?

All course tuition. Also included are all key course textbooks, study materials, the course field trip and weekday morning refreshments (tea/coffee).

14. Do you provide any scholarships for the course?

We are, unfortunately, unable to offer any scholarships for the Advanced Pre-Sessional Course 2025 at present.

15. Would accommodation be included in my course fees?

Your course fees do not include accommodation. As a Department, we are not in a position to offer accommodation for the duration of the course, and students should be aware that it is ultimately their own responsibility to secure accommodation.

However, we are happy to provide students with advice on finding suitable accommodation in Oxford. Student accommodation may be a possibility, but applicants should contact the course administrator at ipfd@conted.ox.ac.uk for more information.

16. Which qualifications do you accept as proof of English language proficiency?

We accept the following international tests:

- IELTS Academic (Minimum overall score of 6.5)
- Cambridge ESOL CAE (Minimum of B pass)
- TOEFL iBT (Minimum overall scores of 76)
- Oxford Test of English (score of 130-140)

Please note that the above list is not exhaustive. If you have taken and passed another officially-recognised test of English (or are unsure which tests are officially-recognised for course application purposes), please contact us for further details.

17. I am a native English speaker / I have recently completed a course taught entirely in English / I live in a majority English-speaking country and speak English at work, do I still need to submit an English language test score and take the English language module?

You can apply for a waiver of the requirement to provide an English language test score under the following circumstances:

a) You may apply for a waiver if you have completed, or are currently completing, a degree-level course that is:

- full-time
- at least nine months in duration
- undertaken at a recognised institution where teaching and assessment throughout the course is undertaken entirely in English; and
- has been completed within 2 years of the start date of the course to which you are applying.

b) You may also apply for a waiver based on substantial professional experience if:

- you have worked for a minimum of two years in a majority English speaking country where the main language for the role was English;
- your role involved daily professional use of each of the four language components (reading, writing, listening and speaking);
- you worked in an appropriately technical context to demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in an academic environment; and
- your role has ended no more than two years before the start date of the course to which you are applying.

18. Can I pay my course and college fees in instalments?

Yes, but we would need advance notice to be able to accommodate this request. Please contact the course administrator for details: ipfd@conted.ox.ac.uk

19. How long will it take for the result of my application to be known?

We accept applications on a rolling admissions basis, so you can apply for admission at any time before the deadline. We begin processing your application as soon as we receive all the documentation we list on the course website. We will then let you know whether you're invited to the next stage of the selection process, an informal 30-minute online interview via MS Teams. You should expect to learn the outcome of your application within seven working days of your interview.

20. Does the course give an award like a postgraduate certificate?

The course is not an award bearing course, and does not confer a degree-level qualification or postgraduate certificate.

21. What type of certificate will I receive?

Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded a University of Oxford certificate of course completion. You will also receive record of grades achieved for your individual assignments, and a report from the term with your tutors comments on your academic progress.

22. What will my student status be? Will I be considered a full-time student?

Your status with the wider University will be that of a Departmental Visiting Student, and you will be considered a full-time internal student at the Department for Continuing Education. This status will grant you access to the facilities and collections of the Bodleian libraries, the various lectures and talks held around the university and other events. Please note that as the course is a non-matriculated course you would not have access to the university's career service and alumni office.

23. I've already completed a Master's degree. May I still apply for a place on this course?

Yes. Many of the students on the Advanced Pre-Sessional course already hold Master's degrees, either in a subject related to the course or in another subject.

24. I am currently enrolled on another full time / part time course, can I still enroll on the Advanced Pre-Sessional Course.

We strongly advise that you do not consider the course if you are currently enrolled on another programme. The course is intensive, with a large amount of self-study expected outside of class.

25. I currently live in the UK – am I able to apply for this course and commute to Oxford for class?

As the course will often have classes scheduled across the day, for example starting from 9.15am and finishing at 5.15pm, we would strongly recommend that applicants live in Oxford for the duration of the course. The course requires full-time commitment, and we are not in a position to alter the timetable to accommodate students who are commuting.

26. Am I able to take this course online?

No, this is only offered as an in-person course.

27. I have other commitments and/or events I wish to attend, will recordings be provided of classes I do not attend?

No. If you choose to attend other events instead of attending your classes, then you forfeit those classes.