

Foundations of Diplomacy Pre-Master's Course 2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions



The information contained below is correct as of 19 February 2026

1 What is a Pre-Master's course?

A Pre-Master's course is a preparatory course designed to help students qualify to apply for a Master's degree.

It is aimed at students who:

Intend to change to a different academic subject area from that of their UG degree

Need to improve their academic English skills

Come from a different education system and need preparation for study in the UK

It includes:

- Advanced academic English (writing, reading, research skills)
- Study skills for postgraduate learning
- Subject-specific foundation modules
- Critical thinking and academic research methods

2 Is there a 'typical' Foundations of Diplomacy Course student?

Students on the Foundations of Diplomacy Course are all graduates. Many, if not most, also hold Masters degrees. They come from a wide range of backgrounds; some are young serving diplomats, others come straight from undergraduate and postgraduate studies and others are graduate professionals looking for a career change

3 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.

4 Which countries do 'Foundations of Diplomacy Course' students come from?

Most recently, we have welcomed students from Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Ukraine, the UK and the USA.

5 What is the average class size?

For academic seminars, the maximum class size is normally 20. Please note that, in some years, this number may be lower. For English language classes, the maximum class size is normally 8.

6 I have no experience of diplomacy 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 Foundations of Diplomacy 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 What do students do after completing the Foundations of Diplomacy course?

In the past, our students have returned to their Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have gone on to Master's degree courses at leading universities in the UK and overseas, have joined their country's diplomatic service, or have started working for an international organisation or NGO.

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

Students should know that completion of the Foundations of Diplomacy Course does not necessarily improve chances of being accepted for a Master's degree course at Oxford, or guarantee progression to a Master's degree at Oxford.

9 Can you give me advice on visas?

We regret that we are unable to provide advice on individual visas for legal reasons. You are advised to consult your closest British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission for the most up-to-date advice. Please refer to the University's Visa and Immigration team at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa?wssl=1>

10 How many in-person contact hours each week will I have?

The Foundations of Diplomacy Course is highly intensive. You should expect to receive a minimum of 15 contact hours each week. Additionally, you will also receive a weekly individual academic tutorial and an individual writing tutorial.

11 Who will my tutors be?

You will be taught by former British ambassadors (diplomatic studies and practical diplomacy), subject specialist academics (politics, international relations) and specialist English language tutors (academic literacy).

12 What is included in the total fees of £16,950?

All course tuition. Also included are all course books, weekday morning refreshments (tea/coffee), study materials, UK field trips, as well as for airport transfers, flights and hotel accommodation during the main field trip to Vienna.

Please note that accommodation in Oxford is not included in the course fees.

13 I speak English fluently. Do I have to take the English language module?

If you have been educated in English, have recently completed a university degree that was taught entirely (or predominantly) in English or if you speak fluent English to a high degree of proficiency you will not be required to follow the English language module. You may take a number of academic courses in the Central University in lieu of the English language module, or write an additional assignment on one of your compulsory academic seminars.

14 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 Foundations of Diplomacy course already hold Master's degrees.

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

We accept the following international tests:

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

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.

16 What is the process for requesting an English language waiver?

If you would like to request a waiver of the language test requirement, please contact the course administrator at ipfd@conted.ox.ac.uk

17 Can I pay my course fees in instalments?

Yes. Please contact the course administrator for details at ipfd@conted.ox.ac.uk

18 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 at any time. We begin processing your application as soon as we receive your completed application form and related documents. If we decide to proceed with your application, we will contact you to arrange an informal MS Teams interview. We will normally contact you within 7 days of your interview with our decision.