

## SCHOLARS' SEMESTER IN OXFORD (SSO)

### RECOMMENDED CREDITS

Primary Tutorial	6
Secondary Tutorial	3
Integrative Seminar	4
The Shaping of the British Landscape	4
TOTAL CREDITS	17

The program recommends to the home institution that the student receive the equivalent of 17 semester hours of credit.

The Scholars' Semester in Oxford allows students, as members of Wycliffe Hall and Visiting Students of the University of Oxford, to study intensively in the oldest university in the English speaking world. Students may attend for one or two semesters. Each semester they build a coherent but individual programme of study by selecting options within a concentration.

### FIRST SEMESTER COURSES

The first semester introduces students to advanced, intense scholarship, the tutorial (which is the most distinctive element of Oxford's teaching) and Oxford's libraries—more than 100 of them with 11 million items between them and the portals to extremely large electronic resources.

#### Primary tutorial (6 semester credits)

The tutorial is the heart of teaching at Oxford. Each week during the University term the student prepares an essay in answer to an assigned question and this forms the basis of an hour-long conversation between the tutor and the student. Tutorials are chosen from a range of topics within the disciplines of classics, English language and literature, history, philosophy, and theology and the study of religion. Students attend University lectures in conjunction with their primary tutorial.

Tutorials are equivalent to upper-division courses, not introductory courses, for which students need adequate preparation. Students wanting to study British history, for example, need to have done some history, though not necessarily in British history. Similarly, students wanting tutorials in Latin may never have studied Latin, but will have an aptitude for languages and experience of literary studies.

#### Secondary tutorial (3 semester credits)

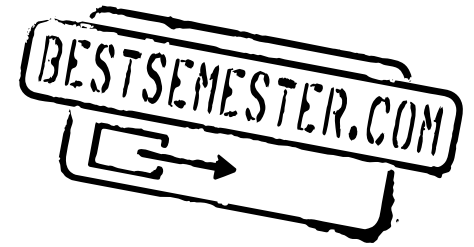
Students have their secondary tutorial every second week during the University term and they choose a different subject from that studied for the primary tutorial: but in all other respects secondary tutorials have the same characteristics as primary.

#### Integrative seminar (4 semester credits)

Seminars are offered in classics, English language and literature, history, philosophy, and theology and the study of religion. Students normally attend a seminar in the same discipline as that of their primary tutorial. Seminar discussion classes and a term paper enable the student to integrate matter covered in tutorials and in University of Oxford lectures. Students reflect on key methodological issues within their discipline and the links between vocation and scholarship.

continued

# SCHOLARS' SEMESTER IN OXFORD (SSO)



## The British Landscape (4 semester credits)

Students study how the British landscape was formed and reformed by societies which successively conquered and settled in it, looking at the dialectic relationship between culture (the economic, social, intellectual, religious and artistic aspects of each group) and landscape (the natural landscape and the human imprint on that landscape). A key part of the human imprint is Christianity whose particularly British forms and institutions influenced and have been influenced by other aspects of British culture and which has provided some of the most enduring monuments in the physical landscape. The aim is to enable students to “read” and understand a long settled landscape through a sound knowledge of British culture, past and present. Particular emphasis is given to Oxford landscapes and events to enable students to make the most of their time in the city. The course is taught through lectures, television viewing and field trips. Assessment is by a portfolio of written work.

## SECOND SEMESTER COURSES

SSO staff welcome students who want to spend a second semester in Oxford to build on the skills they have learnt in their first term. The second semester (normally but not necessarily the spring semester following the first (autumn) semester) keeps tutorials at the heart of the programme, allows students to deepen their understanding of British culture and to pursue independent research. Students are welcome to submit one application for two semesters, or to apply for their second semester while they are in Oxford for their first semester. [Please note that in either case, a student visa is required for the two term programme and is a little harder to obtain if applied for after arrival.]

### SECOND SEMESTER COURSES

Primary Tutorial	6
Secondary Tutorial	3
Thesis	4
Further Studies in the Shaping of the British Landscape	4
TOTAL CREDITS	17

This programme may be subject to minor amendments from term to term.

### Primary tutorial (6 semester credits)

Students choose a primary tutorial from the same lists (classics, English language and literature, history, philosophy, and theology) as in their first term, but cannot duplicate their choice except in language tutorials.

### Secondary tutorial (3 semester credits)

Students choose a primary tutorial from the same lists as in their first term, but cannot duplicate their choice except in language tutorials.

### Thesis (4 semester credits)

Students develop their ability to write independently by writing a thesis, with specialist guidance, on a topic of their choice, which would normally fall within the same discipline as their seminar from the first term.

### Further Studies in the Shaping of the British Landscape (4 semester credits)

Students develop the studies begun in their first term, attending lectures and field trips, and undertaking written work to broaden and deepen their understanding of British culture.