Have a look at the access and schools liaison work of University College, Oxford
HELLO!
I'm Nelli, the Schools Liaison and Access Officer at University College (Univ). I encourage students to think about applying to Oxford and to support them in making their best application to competitive universities. It has been really exciting to work with so many students and teachers from across the country over the past few years.

This booklet will highlight the range of schools liaison and access initiatives Univ runs, from our well-established Open Days and website (Staircase 12) to our dynamic student ambassador team and our new Opportunity Programme.

If you have any questions, or are interested in working with Univ, please don’t hesitate to get contact me. I’d love to hear from you!

Nelli Chamings-Manley
Schools Liaison and Access Officer
University College, Oxford
OX1 4BH
T: +44 (0)1865 286565
E: access@univ.ox.ac.uk

LINK REGIONS
Each Oxford college acts as a ‘link college’ to different areas of the country in order to make communication between schools and the University of Oxford simpler. Univ is linked to Reading, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-On-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, West Berkshire and Wokingham. Some events are therefore specifically for our link regions; this will be noted in each section. Check www.ox.ac.uk/linkcolls to see which Oxford college is linked to your region.

As part of our commitment to widening access to Oxford for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, we launched the Univ Opportunity Programme in 2016-17. Each year around 10 additional places are offered to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. A student’s eligibility is worked out using contextual data through the standard application process. The scheme also involves targeted academic support through a free summer bridging course, giving students the opportunity to sharpen their academic skills and experience ideas beyond their school curriculum.

We really want to students to know about the programme, so please spread the word! For more information, please visit our website: https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/learn-at-univ/opportunity-programme/

Univ hosts a one day teachers’ conference every year. It aims to support you, so you can help students with their HE choices, and to ensure there is dialogue between teachers and our college since there is a great deal for Univ to learn from you.

In the past, conferences have included talks from our tutors on teaching and research, our Senior Tutor on making competitive applications, and our Schools Liaison and Access Officer on going beyond the syllabus.

Details of this event are usually released in the autumn term, so keep an eye out on the website. To express an interest in future teachers’ conferences, please contact Nelli.
What we are doing at Univ

We are really proud of the access and outreach work that takes place in Univ. Have a look at some of the things we do here!

YEAR 12 SUBJECT STUDY DAYS

Every year, Univ runs a series of study days for Year 12 students. They cover multiple disciplines, meaning they are the perfect opportunity for students to explore a range of potential degree subjects. The programme of study days changes every year, so keep an eye on our website to see what the dates and subjects are for each annual series. They run from January to June, with the programme being released in the Autumn.

Please encourage talented students to apply! This is not only for schools in our link regions; students are selected on an academic basis, as well as with consideration to which students will benefit most.

Attendees receive lectures and workshops from our excellent staff and have the opportunity to ask our tutors questions. Attendees also meet current students, have a tour of the college and eat lunch in our dining hall.

STUDENT FEEDBACK:

“Thank you so much for such an amazing day - was unsure about it beforehand, but you provided such an informative, fascinating and exciting day!”

“It was a thoroughly useful and interesting experience, giving an enjoyable insight into Oxford uni life.”

YEAR 10 AND 11 TASTER DAYS

University College offers a series of days each term for small groups of Year 10-11 students. Schools from link regions will be prioritised.

Typical schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Oxbridge Explained Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Tour of College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A with students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Subject tasters / museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15pm</td>
<td>Departure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD OPEN DAYS

Three Open Days are held every year – two in June/July and one in mid September. Visitors can tour Univ, ask questions of current students, and meet our tutors. There are also talks from members of Univ’s admissions team about making a competitive application to Oxford. There is no need to book for any of Univ’s talks or tours – students and groups are welcome to just turn up on the day!

The full Oxford schedule is released in spring each year; Univ’s schedule will be available before the Open Days on our website.
What if you can’t get to Univ?

We know that we cannot have every student or school visit our college (as much as we would like to!), so here are some other things we do.

HAVE A UNIV AMBASSADOR TO VISIT

Univ has a team of over 60 undergraduate students who volunteer as ‘Ambassadors’. As well as helping in College events, they are trained to run their own visits to schools, some going to their old schools, some travelling locally to schools in our link regions during term time. To see if a Univ Ambassador lives locally to your school, please contact Nelli.

Nelli also visits a number of schools each year herself, giving talks and workshops to schools in our link regions, so do also get in touch if you might be interested in a visit like this.

AMBASSADOR REPORT:

“Last June, I visited the Holt School, a girls’ comprehensive in Wokingham, who had contacted Nelli to ask for an ambassador to come and visit.

“After arriving, we started with generalities – I explained to the Y10s what made Oxford so special and dispelled a few myths surrounding its supposed exclusiveness. We then moved to a taster session in economics, before having a Q&A about the admissions process.

“Overall, a helpful and enjoyable session for everyone involved!”

Tom, Student Ambassador

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: STAIRCASE12

Staircase 12 is our access and outreach website, which we have packed with our advice and top tips on how to ‘read around your subject’, since super-curricular activities are really important for competitive university applications. Our website has information on what super-curricular activities are, how to approach them, and examples for many subjects!

Book Reviews:

⇒ Univ students and some tutors have written reviews of books that they either found helpful when applying to Oxford, or wished they had know about when they were applying.

Resource Hub:

⇒ There are such a large number of resources available for free, but it can be hard to know where to start. We have some starting points for exploring many different subjects. Expect to find magazines, blogs, podcasts, documentaries, websites and more!

ANYTHING ELSE...

We would also love to hear from you about other ways we can support you. (e.g. Teacher CPD sessions) Representatives from Univ can also attend a variety of other events across the country if we are available. Please get in touch if you are interested in working with us.
Both the Univ prospectuses (‘Alternative’ and official) and the University of Oxford prospectus are available online as PDFs that you can download for free.