

# THE OXFORD

## English Centre

**Choose Quality**

*Providing high quality English language tuition in Oxford since 1979.*

Accredited by the



for the teaching  
of English in the UK

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# Welcome to the Oxford English Centre

*The Oxford English Centre (OEC) has been delivering high quality English language tuition to international students since its establishment in 1979 and has built a strong reputation as one of the most prestigious English language schools in Oxford.*

*We make it our mission to welcome you into our family of staff, teachers and students. From the moment you first walk through our door we will do everything possible to make you feel at home, and ensure your course and your stay with us are smooth, fun, and productive.*

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# Welcome to Oxford

Oxford is known worldwide as the home of the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world, dating from the 12th century. Oxford University is ranked number one in the world (THE World Rankings).

Oxford is also famous for its many parks and gardens, and for its exquisite limestone architecture, which is why Oxford is nicknamed, **The City of Dreaming Spires**.



## 10 Interesting Facts on Oxford

Population: 160,000

Oxford natives are called Oxonians.

Rivers in Oxford: the Thames and the Cherwell meet in Oxford

Number of students in Oxford University: 23,000

Number of colleges making up Oxford University: 38

Travel Time to London: 1.5 hours

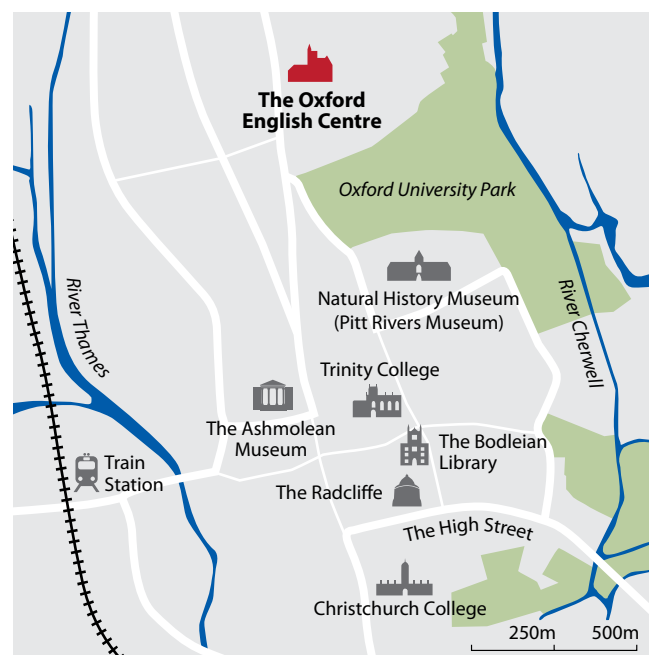
The name *Oxford*, literally means: "River shallows where cows can cross"

The authors Lewis Carrol (*Alice in Wonderland*) and JRR Tolkien (*The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*) graduated from and then taught at Oxford University

Other Famous Oxford alumni: Stephen Hawking, Oscar Wilde, Bill Clinton, Hugh Grant, Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, T.S Eliot, Rowan Atkinson, Theresa May

The dining hall at Oxford's Christchurch College was used as inspiration for the Hogwarts dining hall in the Harry Potter films

## College Location



# Welcome to the Oxford English Centre *A Perfect Place to Study*



## Prime Location

The Oxford English Centre enjoys one of the best locations in Oxford – nestled at the bottom of exclusive North Oxford and opposite the North Parade shopping street with its restaurants, cafes and bars, OEC is still only 15 minutes' walk to Oxford's historic centre, High Street, and Cornmarket Street shopping districts.

## Premier Campus in Heritage-listed Building

OEC is located in a beautiful, historic Victorian building, featuring high ceilings, large windows, spacious, well-lit and airy classrooms and student facilities. OEC has 14 classrooms and a capacity of 180 students.

## Multi Purpose Self-Access Centre and Library

Students have access to a free lending library with a wide range of books, periodicals, DVD's, IT facilities with multiple PC's, English-language listening facilities free WiFi and computer language learning programmes - ideal for self-study or after-school tutorials.

## Ideal classroom Learning Environment

Students benefit from interactive whiteboards, bringing internet, HD-video and social networks into the classroom. Class averages are 8 students/class, with a maximum of 14.

## Popular Garden Courtyard and Café

Our student garden courtyard is a perfect place to socialise before, after and between classes. The garden courtyard adjoins our on-site student café serving good-value hot and cold drinks, snacks and hot lunches. Students can play ping pong, pick up a guitar, and join afternoon BBQ's, board game sessions, or evening Karaoke contests and themed events.

# Quality Teaching

*OEC teachers and staff are always available to you in your time with us. Last year we were proud to welcome students from over 70 nationalities who benefited from our excellent facilities, diverse and imaginative social programme and our enthusiastic and experienced teaching staff.*

## Full Support

Your teachers will be with you at every step in your learning journey, assisting you with your studies, giving you feedback on your progress, correcting your errors, and answering your questions. You'll benefit from a monthly one-to-one tutorial with your teacher to review your goals, discuss issues, and keep you on track.

## Lessons That Are Relevant

Our teachers are trained to make lessons stimulating, interactive and relevant to you. When you are fully involved and engaged in your own learning, your English improves more quickly. Our mission is for all students to make steady, measurable progress, achieve their learning goals, and reach their potential.

## Experienced and Qualified Teachers

All our teachers have the relevant experience and qualifications required to teach English in a British Council-accredited school. They also have teaching, as well as other relevant professional experience to bring to the lessons. We take care to match the right teacher to the right programme, based on the syllabus and the learning goals of the students in each class.

## Optimum Size Classes

We make sure our classes are the right size for maximum language learning. Our average is 8, and never more than 14, even in peak times. You can be sure you will get lots of attention from your teacher, and can feel comfortable using your English in a relaxed learning environment, so that your confidence grows.



# Your Route to Success

It is important for you to achieve your goals and make progress in your English language learning. The table below shows the possible route you may follow on your journey to English language fluency. The table is intended as a guide only and is based on international averages in language learning.

Your progress as a student will depend on a variety of other factors too: your level of motivation, the time you spend on self-study and homework, and your dedication to using English to communicate outside the classroom.

## Your route to English language fluency

	Proficiency level	What you're able to do at this level	Distance to next level when studying	
			20 lessons per week	30 lessons per week
Proficient User C1-C2	<b>7 Proficiency</b> Equivalent to: Cambridge CPE, IELTS 7.5–9.0, TOEFL iBT 106–120	You can understand and communicate with ease and can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, even in complex situations. You can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, paraphrasing coherently and with confidence.	–	–
	<b>6 Advanced</b> Equivalent to: Cambridge CAE, IELTS 6.5–7.5, TOEFL iBT 86–105	You can express ideas fluently and spontaneously with a firm grasp of tenses and without much hesitation. You can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. You are able to read widely and can follow most of what you hear on TV, radio and film.	12-16 weeks	10-14 weeks
Independent User B1-B2	<b>5 Upper Intermediate</b> Equivalent to: Cambridge FCE, IELTS 5.5–6.0, TOEFL iBT 66–85	You can communicate effectively in most situations and can interact with native speakers with a degree of fluency. You can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and discuss a range of topical issues from different points of view. You can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics.	12-16 weeks	10-14 weeks
	<b>4 Intermediate</b> Equivalent to: Cambridge PET, IELTS 4.5–5.0, TOEFL iBT 35–45	You can understand the majority of the English you encounter in speech and text on familiar matters. You have enough confidence and vocabulary to deal with most situations in conversation. You can describe experiences and talk about future hopes and ambitions fluently and in some detail.	12-22 weeks	10-18 weeks
Basic User A1-A2	<b>3 Pre-intermediate</b> Equivalent to: IELTS 4	You can understand common speech related to everyday topics (e.g. basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Although you often make mistakes you can communicate and be understood in most everyday situations.	12-18 weeks	10-16 weeks
	<b>2 Elementary</b> Equivalent to: Cambridge KET, IELTS 3	You can understand common speech related to everyday topics (e.g. basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Although you often make mistakes you can communicate and be understood in most everyday situations.	10-12 weeks	8-10 weeks
	<b>1 Beginner</b>	You have a very small vocabulary with only a few words of English.	6 weeks	4 weeks

## Tips towards good language learning

- 1 Read in English as much as you can; choose material that you are interested in and can understand
- 2 Don't worry about making mistakes – communication is more important than accuracy
- 3 Organise your vocabulary systematically, and in context
- 4 Look for opportunities to speak in English to others, and speak to yourself in English when you are alone
- 5 Do your revision and your homework on a regular basis
- 6 Watch TV, movies in English, or with English subtitles, listen to podcasts, radio in English, music with English lyrics

# General English Courses

Students have access to a range of general English courses for all levels from beginner to proficiency, as well as exam preparation classes and English for specific purposes classes.

- Students are tested and interviewed on arrival.
- Students can choose from standard (20 lessons/week) and intensive (30 lessons/week) options.
- Students have a monthly one-to-one tutorial with their teacher to make sure they stay on track and to review course options.
- Communicative approach – teachers base their lessons on the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference), focusing on improving students' ability to use their knowledge of the language to communicate effectively and fluently in real-life situations, both formal and informal.
- Error correction – teachers will help students identify their areas of weakness and consciously improve their language skills.



## Sample Timetable

Course	Session 1 Lessons 1 & 2 09:30 - 11:00	Session 2 Lessons 3 & 4 11:30 - 13:00	Session 3 Lessons 5 & 6 14.00 - 15:30	Session 4 Lessons 7 & 8 15:45 - 17:15
<b>General English (Standard)</b>	General English	General English	–	Self study
+5 Individual Lessons	General English	General English	Individual lessons	Self study
+10 Individual Lessons	General English	General English	Individual lessons	Self study
<b>General English (Standard)</b>	General English	General English	Fluency Option	Self study
+5 Individual Lessons	General English	General English	Fluency Option	Self study
+10 Individual Lessons	General English	General English	Fluency Option	Self study
<b>Cambridge (FCE, CAE, CPE)</b>	General English	General English	FCE/CAE/CPE	Self study
<b>IELTS</b>	General English	General English	IELTS	Self study
<b>TOEFL</b>	General English	General English	TOEFL	Self study
<b>English for Medicine</b>	Medical English	Medical English	Medical English	Self study
<b>English for Teachers*</b>	Methodology	Methodology	Fluency Option	Self study
<b>Legal English*</b>	General English	General English	Legal English	Self study

\*Intensive 30-lesson per week option available to closed group by prior arrangement.



# Exam Preparation Classes

The Oxford English Centre offers preparation courses for the Cambridge First, Advanced and Proficiency Certificates, the IELTS exam, and the TOEFL exam.

- Choose a goal-driven, highly focused exam preparation programme.
- Identify and strengthen the skills necessary to succeed in the exam.
- Develop strategies to maximise your score in the exam.
- Practise mock exams on a regular basis to familiarise you with the format.

## Cambridge Exam Courses

Useful for both academic and professional purposes. The exams have Listening, Speaking, Reading and Use of English and Writing sections.

Cambridge First Certificate of English – FCE (B2)

Cambridge Advanced English Certificate – CAE (C1)

Cambridge Proficiency English Certificate – CPE (C2)

## IELTS Exam Preparation

The International English Language Testing Scheme is used worldwide by universities, employers and immigration departments. Students practise and improve their academic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills corresponding with the 4 modules of the IELTS Exam. OEC courses are designed for students aiming to score 5.5 or higher in IELTS Academic.

## TOEFL Exam Practice

The Test of English as a Foreign Language is also used by universities, predominantly in North America, to determine a student's language level for academic study. The course focuses on the reading, writing, speaking and listening strategies and skills particularly relevant to the exam.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 1-12 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 12 students**

**Lessons per week: 30 lessons**

**Learning materials and textbooks included**

**Required English level: minimum B2 for FCE, B2-C1 for CAE, C1 for CPE**

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 1-12 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 14 students**

**Lessons per week: 20 General + 10 IELTS**

**Learning materials and books included**

**Required English level: minimum B2**

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 2 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 14 students**

**Lessons per week: 20 General + 10 TOEFL**

**Learning materials and books included**

**Required English level: minimum B2**





# English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

ESP courses are designed for students who wish to improve their English language skills in a specific area, such as medicine or business. Lessons focus on professional and commercial communication skills, negotiation, presentation, social English, writing skills and targeted vocabulary development. Students can also request one-to-one tutorials with qualified tutors to develop any specific English language skill or specialised area.

## English for Medicine

Doctors, nurses, and medical personnel from around the world need to communicate effectively in English to their international patients and colleagues. The course focuses on specific terminology used in the medical field and the communication skills required in hospital and clinical environments.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 2 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 12**

**Lessons per week: 10 to 30**

**Minimum age: 20**

**Required English level: minimum B2, upper intermediate**

## Legal English

Work with other international lawyers and understand legal English as it appears in contemporary written and oral contexts. The focus of legal English is on the development of technical terminology, improving presentation, discussion and negotiation skills in a legal context.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 2 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 12**

**Lessons per week: 10 to 30**

**Minimum age: 20**

**Required English level: minimum B2, upper intermediate**

## English for Business

English has become the *lingua franca* for international business. This course is for students or professionals who are working or planning to work in the international business arena. Students learn and practise their business and cross-cultural communication skills, presentation, networking, negotiation and business etiquette, with a focus on business vocabulary for specific business situations.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 2 weeks**

**Class size: maximum 8**

**Lessons/week: 10 to 30**

**Minimum age: 16**

**Required English level: minimum B2, upper intermediate**



# Teacher Training, Groups and Individual tuition

## Teacher Training Programme

The Oxford English Centre, in conjunction with Teaching House, is a Cambridge English CELTA teacher training centre, and offers teacher training courses for international teachers of English who would like to extend their knowledge of methodology, their range of teaching techniques, and develop their classroom practice and management. Teachers will be introduced to a wide range of new ideas that can be taken away and immediately applied to their own classrooms. Teachers have the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the UK and from around the world.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: 2 weeks**

**Maximum class size: 14**

**Lessons per week: 30 lessons @ 45 minutes each**

**Minimum age: 20**

## Individual Tuition

A highly intensive and individualised programme for students who want to learn at their own pace with a qualified tutor. Students work with their teacher to design a personalised programme and focus on any aspect of English the student wishes to develop or improve. The number of hours and weeks are flexible.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: any**

**Class size: one-to-one with teacher**

**Lessons per week: any**

**Minimum age: from 5 years**

## Group Programmes

The Oxford English Centre welcomes groups of juniors and adults, students and professionals year round. Students can join existing classes provided they meet the minimum age and English language requirements, or OEC can organise bespoke programmes that suit the requirements of any group. Programmes can include any or all of the services that OEC offers.

### Key Facts

**Course duration: Any length**

**Minimum group size: 10 students**

**Minimum age: 12 years for closed groups, 14 for OEC Teen Programme**

**Availability: Year round**

**Classes: General English, Exam Preparation, English for Specific Purposes, Bespoke Programmes**

**Accommodation: Homestay or residential (for adults); full or half board**

**Return airport transfers**

**Weekly social, cultural, activities programmes with weekend excursions**

**Students under 16 years old will be placed in a closed class outside of summer**



# Summer Teen Programme

## Junior Summer Programme for Individuals and Groups

The Oxford English Centre offers an international summer teen programme designed specifically for young learners who are looking to combine an English language course with a varied cultural and activities programme in and around Oxford. Students have the opportunity to improve their fluency, experience British culture and make friends from all around the world in a safe and friendly environment. The OEC summer teen programme is all-inclusive, and supervised. All OEC staff are qualified and experienced to teach and work with under 18-year olds.



### Key Facts

**Course duration: 1-8 weeks (July & August)**

**Ages: 14 – 17**

**Social Activity Programme: Monday to Friday (mornings) and evenings after class.**

**English Classes: 20 lessons/week (afternoons)**












**Maximum class size: 14**

**Learning materials and books included**

**Accommodation: Oxford homestay families, full board (lunches during the week at the school café) twin share (with a student of the same gender from another language group) or single room.**

**Weekend excursions outside of Oxford on Saturday and Sunday (optional)**

## Sample Summer Teen Programme Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10:00 - 13:00 <b>Supervised Activities</b>	10:00 - 13:00 <b>Supervised Activities</b>	10:00 - 13:00 <b>Supervised Activities</b>	10:00 - 13:00 <b>Supervised Activities</b>	10:00 - 13:00 <b>Supervised Activities</b>	<i>Full Day Excursion</i>	<i>Full Day Excursion (optional)</i>
 <i>Oxford Walking Tour</i>	 <i>Touch Rugby</i>	 <i>Pitt Rivers Museum</i>	 <i>Christchurch College</i>	 <i>Punting</i>		
13:00 - 14:00  <b>Lunch at the OEC school café</b>						
14:00 - 15:30 <b>English Class - Session 1</b>	14:00 - 15:30 <b>English Class - Session 1</b>	14:00 - 15:30 <b>English Class - Session 1</b>	14:00 - 15:30 <b>English Class - Session 1</b>	14:00 - 15:30 <b>English Class - Session 1</b>		
15:30 - 15:45  <b>Break</b>						
15:45 - 17:15 <b>English Class - Session 2</b>	15:45 - 17:15 <b>English Class - Session 2</b>	15:45 - 17:15 <b>English Class - Session 2</b>	15:45 - 17:15 <b>English Class - Session 2</b>	15:45 - 17:15 <b>English Class - Session 2</b>		
<i>Spend time with your host family, practise your English, experience British culture</i>	<i>Spend time with your host family, practise your English, experience British culture</i>	<b>Evening Activities</b>  <i>Disco Night</i>	<b>Evening Activities</b>  <i>BBQ Party</i>	<i>Spend time with your host family, practise your English, experience British culture</i>	<i>Bath Trip</i>	<i>London Trip</i>

# Your Oxford Home

## Accommodation Options at OEC

*Where you live strongly influences your happiness and your academic progress, so our accommodations team at OEC work hard to make sure you are comfortable. You can choose between the independence of a student residence and the family atmosphere of a homestay. Wherever you live, we will make sure that you will love your Oxford home.*



### Homestay

With homestay you stay in the home of an English-speaking host. It's excellent value for money and you learn about British culture first hand, and have the opportunity to practise your English daily, outside the classroom. Students have the options of half board (breakfast and dinner with your host family during the week and 3 meals on weekends) or full board (including hot lunches during the week at the school café). Single and shared rooms are available. Students on the Junior Summer Programme share accommodation, and year round we can arrange shared accommodation for students travelling with a friend. Travel from homestay to school is easy and accessible.



### Executive Homestay

This option offers you all the benefits of homestay, but will allow you to live closer to the school with the added benefit of a single room and a private bathroom and study area.



### Residential Accommodation

In the summer, self-catering residential accommodation is available for students aged 18 or older. Our student residence is located in central Oxford, approximately 10 minutes' walk from the school. Students live in 3 or 4 bedroom apartments, have their own secure private bedroom and share common living areas, kitchen and bathroom with 2 or 3 other students. The residence is a secure building and offers students more independence and the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals.



### Private Options

OEC is in the world-famous university city of Oxford. Consequently there are many hotels, B&B's, hostels and serviced apartments. Our staff will be happy to help you investigate these options, depending on your budget.

# Inspirational Activities

## Get Involved

*The Oxford English Centre not only offers you a wide selection of English language courses, we also endeavour to give the students an unforgettable stay in Oxford. Therefore we invite all language learners to join our activities officers and participate in our weekly social programme, including excursions, sports and social gatherings.*



### Make friends, learn and have fun

The weekly after-class activities and excursions will provide the perfect setting for you to meet international students and to get to know your classmates better! They also an ideal opportunity to practise your language skills in real life situations and a chance to visit some of Oxford's tourist attractions and famous landmarks.

With our activity officers, you will never be short of things to do in your spare time. We work year-round to keep you happy and entertained.

### Every week is different but activities can include such things as

- City walking tours
- Day trips outside the city
- Football, basketball, golf and tennis
- Pub nights
- Games night
- Pizza and movie night
- Punting
- Museum and gallery visits
- Crazy golf
- Weekend trips to other cities
- Bowling

# Student Services

*We make it our mission to welcome you into our family of staff, teachers and students. From the moment you first walk through the door, we will do everything possible to make you feel at home and ensure your stay with us at the Oxford English Centre is smooth, enjoyable and productive.*



## Airport Transfers

If you send us your flight details we can organise to meet you at the airport on arrival and transfer you safely to your arranged accommodation. If you would like us to organise a return airport transfer when you've finished your course, we can do that too. We can also help you organise a bus or a train back to the airport, if you are looking for a less expensive option.

## Your First Day/Week at School

When you arrive our reception staff will welcome you with a smile and oversee your orientation. You will have a welcome session, meet the staff, tour the school, have your placement test and interview, find out about your course, and then go on a guided walking tour of Oxford with our activities officer, who will tell you all about the social calendar. The academic manager will be looking at your test results, and will tell you what class you have been placed in as a result.

In your first week, you will get your student ID card, which can be used for discounts at local restaurants and shops, be issued with your course book, find out about lunches in the school restaurants and discover the weekly after-school activities programme.

## Student Services

You are always welcome to come into the reception at OEC to ask questions or to get advice about your course, course materials, accommodation, visa applications and renewals, further study, and excursions and tourism. We are there to help you and make sure you're having the best possible time in the UK, in Oxford, at the Oxford English Centre.

# Meet the Students

Every year students from all over the world come to study at the Oxford English Centre. Our students come from Europe, Asia, Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East, and many other regions. During their course students are asked to give feedback on their teachers, their accommodation, their social programme and their experience in Oxford. Here is what some of them say.



**Roger** - Spain

Oxford is a great city for me. It's really easy to walk around the city and close to London and other places if you want to because of the transportation links. I made friends easily as I'm an outgoing person so I enjoy talking. We go out most afternoons and evenings together or have lunch as a group. You can meet new people here and talk with anyone, Oxford is a friendly city.



**Gustav** - Sweden

I loved studying at The Oxford English Centre. I met a lot of different people from various countries, learning much about their cultures as I had to converse in English to make friends. The school building is so impressive – an old Victorian building with excellent facilities – library, Wi-Fi access – and very friendly staff that assist you each time you need it. Also, as we studied in smaller groups, it meant the teacher was able to attend and support all of us.



**Marion** - Switzerland

Suggested by a friend, I truly like The Oxford English Centre! There are many activities and our activity manager is really cool and I am constantly socialising and travelling. The majority of my colleagues are normally coming with me and we have this extra opportunity to speak and practise our English. I'm staying with a host family and I really like them! I talk with them a lot when I go home and have dinner with them. They are great and taught me how to play Lawn Bowling – it's so much fun! My teachers are all very different but I like all of them.



**Tae** - Japan

Studying at The Oxford English Centre has been a delight – the teachers and staff that work here are really fun and there are a lot of activities – Harry Potter tour was my favourite. The teachers are really skilled at identifying precisely where we needed to improve, in what areas we might have difficulties or specific issues. The location here in Oxford is ideal as you can go anywhere within minutes.



**Johnathan** - Brazil

In my opinion teachers at The Oxford English Centre are really helpful because they can give us examples and if I have a question they take the time to clarify and make sure I understand. The lessons are extremely useful and it was an excellent choice to go for the intensive general English. I have made great improvement – I used to speak slowly and made a lot of errors, however, even though I still make mistakes, I'm a lot more confident and have a better vocabulary.



**Mohammed** - Saudi Arabia

The Oxford English Centre is one of the best language schools in Oxford. I have met many students from all over the world and I have made many friends here. My English is improving day by day thanks to a team of professional, supportive and helpful teachers. I enjoy the weekly free activities organised by the school mainly because I get to improve my English even further and I spend precious time with my colleagues.

# THE OXFORD English Centre

## Why Choose OEC

Prestigious Oxford

Well-established (1979), premium Oxford language school

Beautiful, heritage-listed building

City location

Outdoor garden and on-site café

Cambridge English Assessment and Trinity College London testing centre

Quality teaching – Cambridge English Assessment CELTA centre (Teaching House)

All-inclusive social programme

Materials and books included

Free after-class tutorials with academic managers

Meet like-minded students from all over the world

Friendly, professional staff and teachers



**Choose Quality**

## Contact us

66 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PR

Accredited by the  
 **BRITISH  
COUNCIL**  
for the teaching  
of English in the UK