OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS



Oxbridge Research Scholars

For over twenty-five years, Oxbridge Applications has been synonymous with exceptional preparation for students aiming at the world's most competitive universities. Each year, more than 500 high-achieving candidates secure places at Oxford or Cambridge with our one-to-one, expertly tailored support.

The Oxbridge Research Project has been designed to develop the intellectual qualities Oxford and Cambridge actively assess: depth of subject engagement, intellectual curiosity beyond the syllabus, and the ability to think critically under challenge. These are the habits of mind that distinguish outstanding candidates when grades alone are no longer enough.

Throughout the programme, students work closely with leading Oxbridge academics in a supervision-style model that mirrors university teaching. Mentors provide personalised guidance, sustained academic challenge, and detailed critique as students design and complete an original independent research project. Participants are supported in preparing their work for submission to an appropriate academic journal, gaining first-hand experience of academic standards and expectations.

The programme culminates in our annual Research Symposium, where students present and defend their findings before an audience of senior academics and subject specialists. This experience develops clarity of thought, intellectual confidence, and the ability to articulate complex ideas — skills that translate directly to Oxbridge interviews and undergraduate study.

This project is suitable for an entirely new essay that you would like to work on, as well as supporting with any other essay submission you may be completing.



Over the past **25 years,**
OA has supported in excess of

100,000

students from over **120** countries



The Oxbridge Research Scholars Programme includes:

An original research project

With guidance from our Oxbridge academics and mentors, you will define a focused research question and develop it into a rigorous and independent project. Whether you are exploring the ethics of climate impact in surgical services or analysing the role of conspiracy narratives in modern political speech, we will help you shape a topic into a piece of work that is both personal and genuinely scholarly.

Oxbridge-style academic supervision

We work exclusively with academics and mentors from Oxford and Cambridge.

Your programme includes two dedicated supervision sessions with a senior academic, one at the beginning, to set direction and ensure your project meets the standard expected of competitive applicants, and one at the end, to provide a rigorous viva modelled on a real Oxbridge tutorial.

Across the full duration of the project you will work closely with your assigned Oxbridge mentor, who will provide intellectual challenge, structured guidance, and detailed feedback as your research develops.

Support to prepare your work for publication

For students who wish to take their project further, we can recommend a select group of reputable journals and publications, and provide guidance on formatting, structure, and submission expectations.

Please note: publication is never guaranteed. Some journals charge submission or publication fees, which are not included in the programme price.

Present at our annual Research Symposium

Hosted in the Crown Theatre at Dukes House in central London, the Scholars' Research Symposium is an opportunity to present your work to the wider Oxbridge Scholars community, alongside academics and guests from the field.

Each year, we also recognise an Academic of the Year award for an exceptional piece of research.

'THANK YOU for the great job you have done preparing ___ for her Cambridge application which finally happened yesterday. I don't believe she could have been better prepared.'

The Programme at a glance:

Students:	Ambitious students aged 14-18
Tutors:	Oxford or Cambridge academics or professors, as well as Oxbridge-graduate mentors
Programme duration:	2 hours of individual research guidance meetings with a senior Oxbridge researcher as well as 7 hours of tuition with an Oxbridge-graduate mentor to refine your work, plus offline marking. Sessions are delivered from April to August (students can join the programme until 31st July)
Class size:	One-to-one, plus a research symposium in London in August
Availability:	Anywhere in the world
Programme Start:	From April
Outcome:	A truly original research project in an area of personal interest





Potential research themes

We will work with you whatever the subject that you are interested in, however here are some examples of projects we could work on with you.

Humanities:

- A legal system designed by humans does not apply to animals. To what extent can a legal system designed by and for humans apply to an artificial intelligence?
- Did the printing press cause the Reformation? Or accelerate it?
- Are Conspiracy Theories a Feature of Democracy Rather Than a Bug?

STEM:

- Is it possible to Geoengineer the planet without breaking it?
- Is CRISPR Ready for Human Enhancement?
- Are Small Modular Reactors the Future of UK Energy?
- Should We Allocate Organs by Age?

Social Sciences:

- Do Grammar Schools Increase Social Mobility?
- Is the Gender Pay Gap Better Explained by Preferences or Structures?
- Can Video Games Be Considered Works of Political Philosophy?

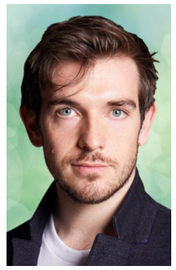
1 in 5

Oxbridge applicants use our guidance and resources

Our Team



Alison Bissell
Director, Dukes Plus Consultancy, MA Oxon
Alison has been working with students at Oxbridge Applications for more than a decade and has individually overseen hundreds of successful applications, as well as advising and presenting to thousands more candidates. Holding a degree in Maths and Philosophy from Pembroke College, Oxford, Alison specialises in guiding STEM applicants along their increasingly competitive pathway–applicant numbers for many of these Oxbridge courses have increased by 50% in the last decade.



Theo Boyce
Head of Oxbridge Applications, MA Cantab
Theo studied Human, Social, and Political Sciences at Cambridge for his BA and MA, achieving the top result in his year with a 'starred First'. He has gone on to achieve two master's degrees, including in Psychology from Birkbeck College, where he also achieved the highest overall grade in his cohort. He has held teaching and research positions at McGill University and Birkbeck College, and has also worked on the creation of the most recent Oxford Handbook of Higher Education.





Claire Catuogno-Cal
Programme Manager, MPhil Cantab
Claire graduated with a Distinction in MPhil Health, Medicine and Society from the University of Cambridge, prior to which she graduated with a First from SOAS, University of London in History and Social Anthropology. Whilst at Cambridge, she conducted research at the intersection of Anthropology and Mental Health, exploring the realities of restructuring NHS Mental Health services.



Dr Robert Waller
Dr Robert Waller is an academic historian and political scientist. Robert achieved his PhD in Modern History from the University of Oxford, becoming a Research Fellow at Magdalen College Oxford, as well as a tutor in History at Wadham College and a tutor of Politics at Trinity College. Robert has also held a Professorship in History and Politics with the University of Notre Dame.

As well as deep experience in academic research, Robert was Research Director of The Harris Research Centre and Wirthlin Worldwide, a political and business consulting firm specializing in opinion polling.



Dr Soham Bandyopadhyay
Dr Soham Bandyopadhyay is an academic neurosurgeon and Research Associate at Oxford University Global Surgery Group and an Academic Fellow at Southampton Clinical and Experimental Neurology Team as well as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

His research interests are in neurosurgery, global health, and medical education. He has published and contributed to over 150 articles in journals such as the Lancet, The Journal of Neuro – Oncology, The World Journal of Pediatric Surgery, and many more.



Dr James Scott
Dr Scott's primary interest concerns the relationship between language, mind and evolution. His PhD research in Cambridge continued this thread, and allowed him to construct a broad and highly interdisciplinary project spanning cognitive psychology, linguistics, human evolutionary biology, and experimental archaeology. At present, he is developing research interests along different strands of their PhD work. Dr Scott is a strong believer in the power of interdisciplinary approaches, as well as the value of curiosity.

"Amazing, I could not have hoped for better support and help throughout the entire process"

Frequently asked questions

How long is the programme?

We are taking enrolment now for our programme which begins in April and our symposium for candidates will be held at the end of August. You will be able to use your 9 hours of mentoring however you would like between that time.

Are the sessions online or in person?

The sessions are held online.

How will you help me identify a subject?

You will pick a broad subject area initially, which will allow us to match you to an appropriate tutor. During your first sessions you will be working with the tutors to hone in on a specific research area unique to you.

What subjects/pathways are available?

We can support with any academic subject, from Physics to History. However, we cannot support more practical subjects such as art or design.

How are tutors matched?

Our tutors are matched by us to ensure that we select the most experienced and relevant tutor for you.

What does “publication support” include?

We support you during the writing of the project to ensure that you are formatting your project in alignment of any publication requirements. We will also provide a general training session on how to submit projects for publication. We will not submit the project for you.

What does the final output look like?

The final output is a 5,000 word essay.

Can students outside the UK attend the symposium / is it optional?

Students outside the UK are more than welcome to attend the symposium, and we hope that they do! However it is entirely optional.

What happens after purchase?

After your purchase you will be sent a reading list for your stated area of interest and we will begin the process of matching you with a tutor. The research programme will begin on April 1st.

What’s included:

- 9 × 1-hour sessions
- Reading list + research question formation
- Iterative feedback / marking
- Final written report
- Research Symposium

PRICE: £1500

Book online or call +(0) **207499 2394** to speak to a consultant.

Each year,

500+

of our students receive offers from **Oxford** or **Cambridge**





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TOGETHER WE'RE EXTRAORDINARY

Dukes EDUCATION

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