GEOGRAPHY AT OXFORD

Where will it take you?

OPEN DAY 2019

Dr Lorraine Wild
Why Geography?

- Interdisciplinary
- Deals with key world issues
- "Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose."
  - Michael Palin
- Broad...
- vs specialised
- Employability
Why Geography at Oxford?

The School of Geography and the Environment has been ranked 1st in the 2019 QS World University Rankings for Geography.
Course Structure

Year 1: Preliminary Examination
Four written examinations
Fieldwork report
1,500 word essay

Years 2 and 3: Final Honour School
Six written examinations
Fieldwork report (4,500 words)
3 submitted essays (4,500 words each)
Dissertation (12,000 words)
Teaching and Learning Components

Lectures
1st years – 7/8 hours a week
2nd/3rd years – 4/5 hours a week

Practicals
1.5 hours a week

1-2 tutorials per week

Fieldwork

Independent learning
Year 1 – First Public Examination (Prelims)

• Earth Systems Processes
  – Ecology
  – Climatology
  – Geomorphology

• Human Geography
  – Space and Place
  – Networks and Mobilities
  – Power and Identity

• Geographical Techniques
  – Fieldwork

• Geographical Controversies
  – importance of a critical understanding of the use of evidence and data in geographical argument
Years 2 and 3: Final Honour School

Geographical Thought – including skills workshops and residential fieldtrip

- Earth System Dynamics
- Environmental Geography
- Space, Place and Society

Option 1
2nd year

Option 2
3rd year

Option 3
3rd year

Dissertation
Note: These optional subjects are either currently offered or are being planned for next year. Not all subjects may be offered in any one year.
Fieldwork

one-week, fully funded residential fieldtrip in late Spring for 2nd years*

Berlin

Sieving in Prinzessinnengarten

Tempelhof Airport

Tenerife

Walking in the pine forest within the cloud band near the Chinyero Volcano

El Teidi

*travel and accommodation covered – students may need to purchase meals and other items eg museum entry
Dissertation Topics

Dissertations are up to 12,000 words in length from research in the summer of 2nd year

Characterising the low-level jet dust emission mechanism over the Etosha Pan, Namibia

Fighting Like A Girl: Female embodiment in the male-dominated spaces of amateur boxing

High-latitude tree-growth responses to climate change in Wytham Woods, Oxford, since the 18th Century

Forest fires in the South of France during the 2003 European heat wave – a detection and attribution study on the role of soil moisture

Challenging Postcolonial Education in Guyana – Perspectives from Paramakatoi

Human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka: an evaluation of management methods
What kind of student are we looking for?

- Our assessments are only made on academic criteria – extra curricular activities are not part of the assessment.

- Successful candidates will have a good academic record – but there are no fixed criteria about number of GCSE 8/9/A*.

- Those with a genuine interest in the subject which goes beyond simply learning what teachers tell you.

- Willingness to apply knowledge and skills to new situations and issues.
The Admissions Process (i)

14 Oxford colleges admit Geography students:
Brasenose, Christ Church, Hertford, Jesus, Keble, Mansfield, Regent’s Park, St. Anne’s,
St. Catherine’s, St. Edmund Hall, St. Hilda’s, St. John’s, St. Peter’s, Worcester.

• A*AA at A – Level
Geography not an absolute requirement.
The A* does not need to be in Geography

• IB 39 points, usually 7 in Geography

• 80 – 85 undergraduates admitted each year
Students are admitted through **colleges**

- It makes no difference to chances of being accepted

- All colleges have sports teams, music and drama, and all of the University activities are open to all students

- 15-20% of successful candidates get an offer at a college other than the one to which they applied
The Admissions Process (iii)

Geography Admissions Test

All candidates must take the GAT pre-interview test on 30th October 2019 at their school or local test centre. For more information about the GAT see: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests/gat.

It is up to each candidate to register separately for the GAT.

Candidates who do not take the GAT will not be called for interview unless special circumstances apply.
Final decisions made on the basis of a variety of evidence:

- Academic record
- School reference
- Interview which may include:
  - Response to spatial data, images and graphs etc.
  - Scenarios and case studies
  - Interviews do not ‘test’ prior knowledge – there is not a core of factual material you are assumed to know
More questions?

Online:
https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/
www.admissions.ox.ac.uk
www.geog.ox.ac.uk/isoxfordgeogforyou

Alternative Oxford Geography Prospectus (available via the SoGE website)

Get in touch:
undergraduate.enquiries@ouce.ox.ac.uk

After October 15th (deadline for applications) you must direct any questions to the College to which you have applied

oxford_geography #oxfordgeography #ChooseGeography