Pre-Master’s Course FAQs

1. **Is there such a thing as a typical British and European Studies student?**
   Actually, no. Students on the Advanced Diploma in British and European Studies course come from many different countries and are of all ages, from recent graduates to mature professionals. Most of our students take the course before applying for admission to a Master’s degree, but others also take a year out of work to improve their English, as well as their chances of promotion in their home countries.

2. **Which countries do British and European Studies Course students come from?**
   Most recently, we have welcomed students from Brazil, India, Italy, Malaysia, the UK and the USA.

3. **What do students do after completing the British and European Studies course?**
   Many of our students have gone on to graduate study in the UK at universities such as:
   - University of Oxford
   - University of Cambridge
   - University of St Andrews
   - University of Edinburgh
   - University of Glasgow
   - London School of Economics
   - University College London
   - Courtauld Institute of Art
   - King’s College London
   - SOAS, University of London
   - University of Warwick

4. **Can you give advice on visas?**
   We regret that we are unable to provide advice on individual visa applications. You are advised to consult your closest British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission for the most up-to-date advice.

   You may also wish to consult the University’s Information and Advisory Service for further information on student visas at [www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students/)

5. **How many students are there in each class?**
   For academic subjects, there is a maximum of 15 students per class. For English language classes, there is a maximum of 8 students per class. You also receive an individual weekly academic writing tutorial in all three terms. In addition, you will receive an individual weekly academic tutorial in your second and third terms.

6. **How many contact hours will I have each week?**
The Advanced Diploma in British and European Studies is a highly intensive course. You should expect a maximum of 16 contact hours each week.

7 **May I pay for the course in instalments?**
Yes. Please contact the course administrator for details.

8 **What is included in the course fees?**
All course tuition, course books and study materials, UK cultural field trips and weekday morning refreshments (tea/coffee).

9 **What is a College affiliation?**
A College affiliation or attachment allows students to experience the entirety of university life (social and cultural). It offers students the opportunity to socialise with their British and international peers and also to benefit from the academic, sporting and recreational activities of one of the University of Oxford’s 38 colleges. The 2016-2017 college fee is (£2,848). Please note that college fees do not include meals or accommodation. You must budget for accommodation in addition to your college fees.

10 **I speak English fluently. Do I have to take the English language module?**
If you have been educated in English, have recently completed a university degree that was taught entirely (or predominantly) in English or if you speak English to a high degree of proficiency, you will not normally be required to take the English language module. You would be expected to take a number of academic courses in the Central University in lieu of the English language module. The courses should be related to British and European culture and civilisation e.g. politics, history, literature, sociology, law.

If you feel that you should be considered for exemption from the English Language Module, please contact the course administrator in the first instance: ipbes@conted.ox.ac.uk

11 **I am a native speaker of English. May I still apply for a place on the Advanced Diploma in British and European Studies course?**
Yes, you may. We welcome applications from native speakers of English for whom the English language module would be waived and replaced by a range of academic options in your field(s) of interest. For instance, you could choose to follow courses in history, literature, music, art history, politics, sociology and law.

12 **What level is the course?**
The course is pitched at final year UK undergraduate degree level so is intellectually demanding. This makes it ideal as a pre-Master's preparatory course for international students who have little or no experience of the British academic learning and teaching culture.

13 **How long will it take for the result of my application to be known?**
We accept applications on a rolling admissions basis so you may apply for admission at any time. We begin processing your application as soon as we have received your completed application form, your reference form, copies of your university transcripts and your IELTS test results (if applicable). We then contact you to arrange an informal telephone interview. We will normally contact you within 14 days of your telephone interview with our decision.
Must I have a first degree before I can apply for a place on the course?
No. We also welcome applications from those with a strong interest in the civilisation and culture of Britain and Europe who may have no formal qualifications but who would like to follow an intellectually stimulating and engaging interdisciplinary course. In such cases, we would look for previous experience in the study of subjects such as history, politics, history of art, literature and sociology at a level equivalent to that of the first two years of an undergraduate degree. We may also ask for evidence of written work. Importantly, we are looking for a high level of commitment, as well as the capacity for intellectual growth and development. Admission will be based on information provided in the application form and at interview. If you have any questions concerning your suitability for admission and would like to discuss your interest in the course with us, please contact our programme administrator at ipbes@ox.ac.uk or call us on 01865 270451.

How much should I budget for living accommodation?
For single study bedroom College accommodation with en suite facilities, you should budget approximately £500 per month. For private accommodation, rents in Oxford will vary according to the type of accommodation sought. Please contact the University Estates Services for further information on accommodation options: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/

How much should I budget for food and other expenses?
For food and entertainment, you should budget for approximately £85 per week. A monthly bus pass costs around £60.

Can I study for this course by distance learning?
No, the course requires full-time study at the University of Oxford.

Can I follow the course for one term/two terms only?
Under certain circumstances this may be a possibility. Please contact us for further details.

I've already completed a Master's degree. May I still apply for a place on this course?
Yes. Many of our students already hold Master's degrees.

Which qualifications do you accept as proof of English proficiency?
To apply for admission to the pre-Master's UG Advanced Diploma in British and European Studies, international students whose first language is not English must normally have taken an officially-recognised test of English, e.g.
- IELTS Academic (Minimum overall score of 6.5)
- Cambridge ESOL CAE (A Pass)/CPE (C pass or higher)

Please note that the above lists are not exhaustive. If you have taken and passed another officially-recognised test of English, (or are unsure which tests are officially-recognised for course application purposes) please contact us for further details.

If you have not found the answer to your question above, please contact the course administrator at ipbes@conted.ox.ac.uk or call +44 1865 270451 (from outside the UK) or 01865 270451 (from inside the UK).