General

Who is the typical FSP student?

There is no such thing as the “typical” student: each application is decided on its merits by reference to the published selection criteria.

Most but not all of our students are established diplomats. Most of our students have at least a couple of years’ of experience of the workplace, some of them many more.

Our students hail from a great array of nationalities. In the last 3 years, we have welcomed students from Angola, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Sao Tome & Principe, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, UK, Uruguay, USA.

The age range of students is broad: in the last 3 years it has ranged between mid-20s and mid-40s.

Historically more men have applied to the course than women; we hope the number of female applicants will increase.

As regards disability and support for learning difficulties, please see the course webpage and the University’s policies.

Can I study the PG Certificate/PG Diploma in Diplomatic Studies on a part-time basis?

No. This course is a full time residential course lasting one academic year.

Can I apply directly to the MSt in Diplomatic Studies?

No. Access to the MSt in Diplomatic Studies is by progression only from the Postgraduate Diploma, completed during the previous academic year.

All students are initially admitted to the Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies and have the opportunity to apply to transfer to the Postgraduate Diploma during the first term of the Certificate course.
Is progression to the MSt automatic?

No. Access to the MSt is via a separate application process.

Applications

Do I need to pay an application fee for this course?

No, there is no fee for applying to the Foreign Service Programme.

How long before I hear the result of my application?

We hope to notify you of the outcome of your application 6-8 weeks after receiving your complete application with all supporting documents. You are welcome to contact the FSP Office fsp@conted.ox.ac.uk during this time.

Can I apply if my first degree is in a subject not related to diplomacy/international relations?

Yes.

Can I apply if I am not a diplomat?

Yes. Although the course is designed for established diplomats, we accept some applications from non-diplomats each year and welcome the different perspectives they bring to the course. To be accepted, you will be expected to show experience of a related field or reasons for a strong interest in diplomacy.

Do I need to take a TOEFL or IELTS test if I have completed a degree taught in English language?

You can ask for a waiver of the test requirement. Please see Oxford University’s guidance on English language requirements.

If my IELTS/TOEFL test result will not be available until after the deadline, do I need to wait for it before sending my application?

Ideally you should submit all your supporting documents at the same time as your application. However, you may upload your IELTS/TOEFL separately once available.