



Oxford Internet Institute Graduate Study

‘The Internet has the potential to transform how, what and where people learn; and challenges existing ideas of what the purpose and nature of formal education is and the future of education should be.’
Dr Rebecca Eynon, Senior Research Fellow



MSc in Social Science of the Internet

The MSc in Social Science of the Internet is a full-time 11-month taught programme designed to ensure students attain an in-depth understanding of the social sciences concepts, theories and methods required to undertake rigorous empirical research and policy analysis of Internet-related topics.

Designed for students from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, the degree will benefit students intending to continue their academic studies with a doctoral degree and for those planning to use the skills and knowledge in a professional career.

THE COURSE

Core components necessary to undertake, analyse and apply Internet research; including digital social research methods.

Option courses available across a wide range of specialisations enabling students to pursue issues of particular interest in greater depth and prepare to undertake the necessary thesis research.

Original research leading to a 10,000-15,000 word thesis with supervision from a member of faculty.

DPhil in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences

The DPhil in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences at the Oxford Internet Institute encourages promising researchers to be future leaders in Internet scholarship. The three to four year degree combines specialised supervision with tailored training in research methods and graduate skills.

Doctoral students are encouraged to pursue innovative research that will shape the development of digital network spaces, and those whose lives are affected by it, culminating in an original piece of scholarship.

Recent research topics include:

- Privacy practices in HIV clinics
- Crowd-sourced movie production
- The Internet's contribution to public debate
- The ethics of persuasive Internet technologies
- Online encyclopaedias in Chinese political culture

Doctoral students receive training in key graduate skills necessary to support their research and future employment, ranging from programming or using content analysis software, to presentation skills, academic writing and peer review.

OPENING DOORS

Studying at the Oxford Internet Institute is a unique experience where students benefit from the variety of disciplines available and leave equipped for careers in exciting and dynamic sectors such as journalism, finance, law, and academia. Where will your OII degree take you?

23%

of MSc graduates go on to work in online media or publishing

5

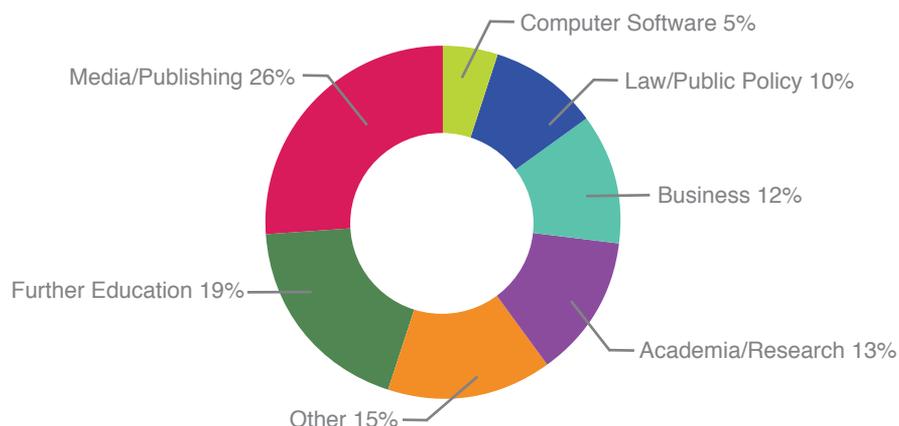
Top Alumni Employers

Google
Thoughtworks
Deloitte
Amazon
Microsoft

37

number of countries OII students represent

What do OII alumni do?



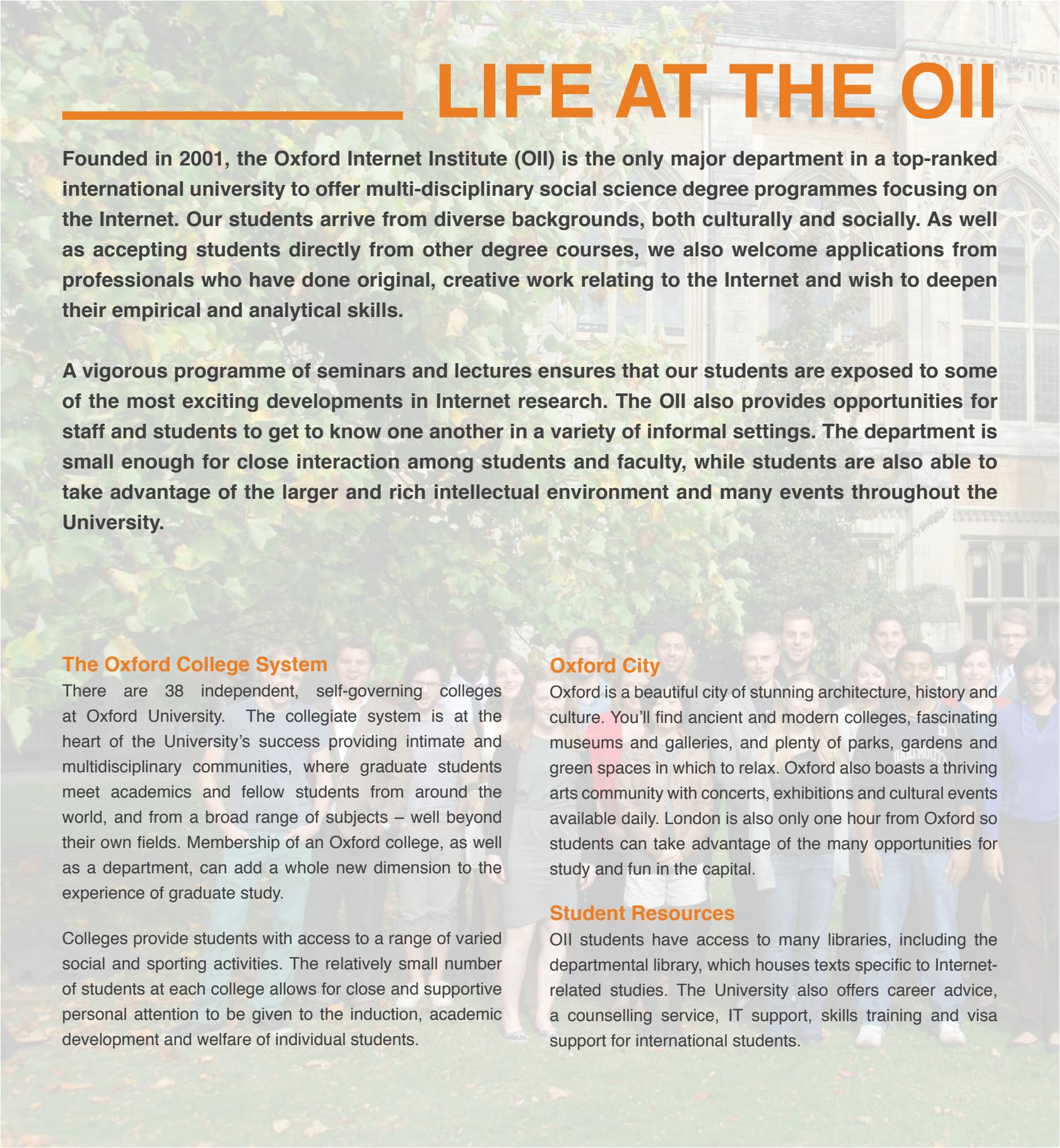
Thain Simon OII MSc, 2013

'I recently joined Rise, a startup in San Francisco. We're building a micro-coaching platform that connects clients with professional nutritionists through a smart phone, all while making the experience more personal, mobile, and efficient. In doing so, we'll be able to make a highly effective method for losing weight – personal nutrition coaching – affordable for millions of people who need it. My primary role is in product analytics – collecting and analysing the data generated by our app and using it to improve our product. We've launched our beta and will be expanding the service soon.'

Dr Fadhila Mazanderani OII DPhil, 2013

'Since September 2013, I have been a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh in the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies group. Broadly speaking, my research interests are in the production and mediation of alternative forms of knowledge and ways of knowing in healthcare, and how we might use this to re-think the relationship between knowledge, ethics and aesthetics in science, medicine and related fields. My work to date has focused on the role of Internet technologies in the lives of people affected by different health conditions. I previously worked at Durham University and the University of Warwick.'

LIFE AT THE OII



Founded in 2001, the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) is the only major department in a top-ranked international university to offer multi-disciplinary social science degree programmes focusing on the Internet. Our students arrive from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and socially. As well as accepting students directly from other degree courses, we also welcome applications from professionals who have done original, creative work relating to the Internet and wish to deepen their empirical and analytical skills.

A vigorous programme of seminars and lectures ensures that our students are exposed to some of the most exciting developments in Internet research. The OII also provides opportunities for staff and students to get to know one another in a variety of informal settings. The department is small enough for close interaction among students and faculty, while students are also able to take advantage of the larger and rich intellectual environment and many events throughout the University.

The Oxford College System

There are 38 independent, self-governing colleges at Oxford University. The collegiate system is at the heart of the University's success providing intimate and multidisciplinary communities, where graduate students meet academics and fellow students from around the world, and from a broad range of subjects – well beyond their own fields. Membership of an Oxford college, as well as a department, can add a whole new dimension to the experience of graduate study.

Colleges provide students with access to a range of varied social and sporting activities. The relatively small number of students at each college allows for close and supportive personal attention to be given to the induction, academic development and welfare of individual students.

Oxford City

Oxford is a beautiful city of stunning architecture, history and culture. You'll find ancient and modern colleges, fascinating museums and galleries, and plenty of parks, gardens and green spaces in which to relax. Oxford also boasts a thriving arts community with concerts, exhibitions and cultural events available daily. London is also only one hour from Oxford so students can take advantage of the many opportunities for study and fun in the capital.

Student Resources

OII students have access to many libraries, including the departmental library, which houses texts specific to Internet-related studies. The University also offers career advice, a counselling service, IT support, skills training and visa support for international students.

SPOTLIGHT

The diversity of students and faculty is one reason the Oxford Internet Institute is a place where individuals thrive. The OII faculty represent expertise spanning a wide variety of Internet-related subjects and are regarded as some of the most forward-thinking academics studying the social, political, legal and ethical issues of the Internet in the twenty-first century.



Dr Isis Hjorth
Researcher and OII DPhil, 2014

Isis Hjorth is a cultural sociologist, who specialises in analysing emerging practices associated with networked technologies. She completed her DPhil, an ethnographic study of four crowdsourced feature films, at the OII in January 2014. Isis now investigates the economic and social implications of new forms of economic activities in the context of ICTs for development.

Dr Vili Lehdonvirta
Research Fellow

Vili Lehdonvirta is an economic sociologist studying the social and economic dimensions of new information technologies. Recognized as an expert on online economies and digital currencies, Vili has advised companies and organizations around Europe, the United States, and Japan. Before his academic career, Vili worked as a game programmer.

Dr Mark Graham
Senior Research Fellow

Mark Graham's research focuses on Internet and information geographies, and the overlaps between ICTs and economic development. Mark is perhaps best known for his collaborative Internet mapping work, depicting how people and places are ever more defined by their digital shadows, and asking who (and where) is left out. He is currently carrying out a multi-year project on 'microwork' and 'innovation hubs' in 12 African and 3 Asian countries to understand who benefits, and who doesn't, from changing connectivity.

Gillian Bolsover, Current OII DPhil Student

Having worked extensively in the media industry, Gillian has first-hand knowledge of both traditional and new media including experience in the news industry as an editor, writer, photographer and multimedia producer. Gillian's works as a research assistant on the Global Internet Values and cyber security projects, and her thesis will examine the power redistributing and reinforcing potentials of social media in the US and China.

ADMISSIONS

The OII operates a staged admissions process, where MSc applicants have three opportunities to apply, and DPhil applicants have two opportunities (see table below). Applicants will benefit from submitting an application as early as possible especially if you are seeking funding or scholarships. The sooner you apply the sooner you can start planning your move to Oxford. All prospective students must submit an application directly through the University's Graduate Admissions Office (www.ox.ac.uk/admissions).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
MSc Applications	November 2016	January 2017	March 2017
DPhil Applications	November 2016	January 2017	

Open Days

If you are thinking about applying to one of the Oxford Internet Institute's graduate programmes, then an Open Day is your chance to find out more about the department, the content and structure of the courses and meet our faculty.

We hold student open days in September and November, and for those who can't make it to Oxford, a live virtual open day in December.

Scholarships

There is a wide variety of funding through the University coordinated by the Student Fees and Funding Office. The outstanding calibre of OII students is evident from the number of prestigious scholarship awards won each year: Clarendon Fund, Dulverton Trust, Hill Foundation, Rhodes Scholars and Google. Along with the University funding opportunities, the OII offers a number of annual scholarships to both MSc and DPhil students.

Why I chose the OII...

'I was fascinated by the cutting-edge research on a variety of topics, which not only focused on technology as such, but also on its impact and implications.'

Ulrike Rauer, MSc, 2011

'You're taught by genuine leaders in the field of Internet studies, and you're exposed every day to the most cutting-edge research out there.'

Joe Weir, MSc, 2012

'I wanted to gain a better understanding of the architecture, regulation and use of the Internet, with the aim of returning to publishing and confidently leading the industry's transition. The OII was a great place to gain that knowledge.'

Laird Barrett, MSc, 2012