August 2014

Dear Student,

Language learning for all students at Oxford

Did you know that Oxford University has one of the largest and best-equipped language centres in Britain? Our web address is www.lang.ox.ac.uk and full details of our courses, resources and facilities are available on this site.

We offer language courses for study and research (our LASR programme) in French, German, Georgian, Italian, Chinese (Mandarin), Modern Greek, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Welsh at most levels from beginner to advanced during term-time. There are self-assessment tests for some languages on our website. These courses are free of charge to Oxford students who require a language course for their study or research. For students with a general interest in language learning, however, there is a termly £35 registration charge for each course within the programme.

We also offer a fast-paced, certificated, early-evening programme of courses in Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, called OPAL. The tuition fees for all OPAL courses are £215 for the taught part of the course (Michaelmas and Hilary Terms) and £60 for the optional examination and assessed project In Trinity Term. Most colleges offer a partial refund of fees on successful completion of the certificate.

For international students whose first language is not English, we offer a large English for Academic Studies programme focusing on Academic Writing and Advanced Communication Skills. There is a termly registration fee of £30 for each course within this programme.

For the independent language learner, we have a first-class Language Library with text, audio, video and computer-based materials in about 180 languages, foreign language satellite reception in 14 languages, as well as e-mail and Internet facilities and a language exchange board for those wanting conversational practice. A wide range of materials can be borrowed and there are Library induction tours at 10.00 and 14.00 every day, Monday to Friday.

Perhaps you would like to keep up your French or German skills independently, but need the friendly support of an experienced adviser from time to time. For you, we offer the opportunity to join the Lambda Project. Or you may be studying a subject which offers you the chance to study a language within your degree course. Currently, if you are taking Chemistry, History, Physics, Engineering Science, Maths or Materials, you will be offered optional courses in languages. For graduate students, there are also special language courses depending on your subject of study.

I have enclosed our User's Guide which provides information on all our courses and facilities. I hope that you will come and visit us very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Vanderplank
Dr Robert Vanderplank
Director