



INTERNATIONAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

CITY OF OXFORD COLLEGE

READING COLLEGE

BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE



TRANSFORM



“

THE TEACHERS AT THE COLLEGE HAVE REALLY HELPED ME WITH MY STUDIES AND I'VE MADE SOME GOOD FRIENDS THAT HAVE HELPED ME SETTLE IN. I'VE REALLY BENEFITTED FROM THE COLLEGE'S TRAINING AND VOLUNTEERING SCHEME AND HAVE BECOME A STUDENT MENTOR AND RED CROSS VOLUNTEER. THIS HAS REALLY HELPED ME WITH MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT. RECENTLY I RECEIVED A DIANA AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY WORK WHICH WAS A REAL HONOUR. I PLAN TO GO TO UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR.

”

Kavitha ElanGanathan, Sri Lanka
Studying A-levels at Reading College





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WELCOME TO ACTIVATE LEARNING

Activate Learning is a successful and progressive education group based in the South East of England, UK.

The Activate Learning Group, formerly known as Oxford & Cherwell Valley College Group, has a long history of offering further and higher education. We are proud to have educated thousands of international students over the years.

There are three Activate Learning colleges: Banbury and Bicester College, City of Oxford College and Reading College. In addition, the Group runs student-led commercial businesses, schools and training and consultancy services for businesses.

Activate Learning is privileged to partner with leading universities and enjoys well-established links with Oxford Brookes University and Bucks New University. The Colleges are state-funded, government inspected and hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence with UK Border Control authorities.

In addition to the numerous English and work-related courses offered at each of our Colleges, Activate Learning has specialist art and design centres at Reading and Banbury, motorsport engineering at Bicester and The Rycotewood Furniture Design Centre at Oxford.

Why choose us?

We go Further than Education

The Activate Learning mission is to transform lives through learning. We believe in the power of learning to open up better opportunities, build more confidence, and enable students like you to go further in their life and career. We are specialists in work-related learning and our whole teaching approach is focused on creating learning experiences that give you the skills, knowledge and attitude to succeed.

We have students of over 130 different nationalities studying with us at Activate Learning. International students succeed at Activate Learning Colleges because of the high-tech study environments, expert teachers who come with strong and relevant industry experience, our very personalised and supportive approach to learning and access to our strong network of national and global employers.

With Activate Learning, students can achieve their potential and progress on to the university or employment of their choice.

Advantages of Activate Learning

- Tier 4 Sponsor status
- Good history of student progression on to their preferred degree course or career path
- Some of the best pass rates in the country
- Leading provider of work-related courses; more than 500 employers trust us to train their staff
- International students learn alongside British students, enjoying the opportunity to meet and mix with English students through study and leisure activities
- Strong partnerships with leading UK universities and employers
- Well-equipped, contemporary learning environments
- Prime locations within the UK
- Lower fees than a private school

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S WELCOME

Welcome to Activate Learning! We are delighted that you are considering studying at one of our Colleges in England.

At Activate Learning we specialise in learning. We understand how people learn and how to create the right conditions for you to succeed. We design our learning programmes in collaboration with businesses to ensure that learning is relevant for today's global workplace and aim to deliver the knowledge, skills and behaviours that are in demand. This means that our learning programmes are motivating, engaging and enable you to open up future career pathways.

All students are guaranteed a warm welcome from our staff and students. Learning takes place in a friendly learning community where students will have plenty of opportunities to make new friends across all the Activate Learning Colleges.

Each year, international students come to us from around the world, not just because of the great learning opportunities, but because our locations provide an ideal base for studying in the UK. We encourage all international students to use their free time to visit interesting places, learn about our culture and enjoy the whole UK experience.

We place a high value on having international students learning with our UK students. This international mix creates a rich multi-cultural experience that broadens the mind, develops interpersonal skills and helps prepare all our students to succeed in today's global workplace.

We are very proud to have welcomed thousands of international students in our colleges over the years and we are proud to see you do well, succeed in your studies and move on to better things. We would be happy to have you join us.



Sally Dicketts,
Group Chief Executive,
Activate Learning

International students have gone on to study at a variety of UK universities such as:

- Accounting at Bristol University
- Architecture at London Metropolitan University
- Business at Reading University
- Business at Royal Holloway, London
- Computing at Winchester University
- Engineering at Imperial College London
- Fashion Design at London College of Fashion
- Fine Art at Goldsmiths
- Medicine at Imperial College London
- Physics at Queen Mary University, London
- Politics and International Relations at the London School of Economics
- Psychology at University of West of England, Bristol

CITY OF OXFORD COLLEGE

The College is situated in the heart of Oxford, just five minutes walk from the train station. It is home to a vibrant community of students who are on a wide range of courses.

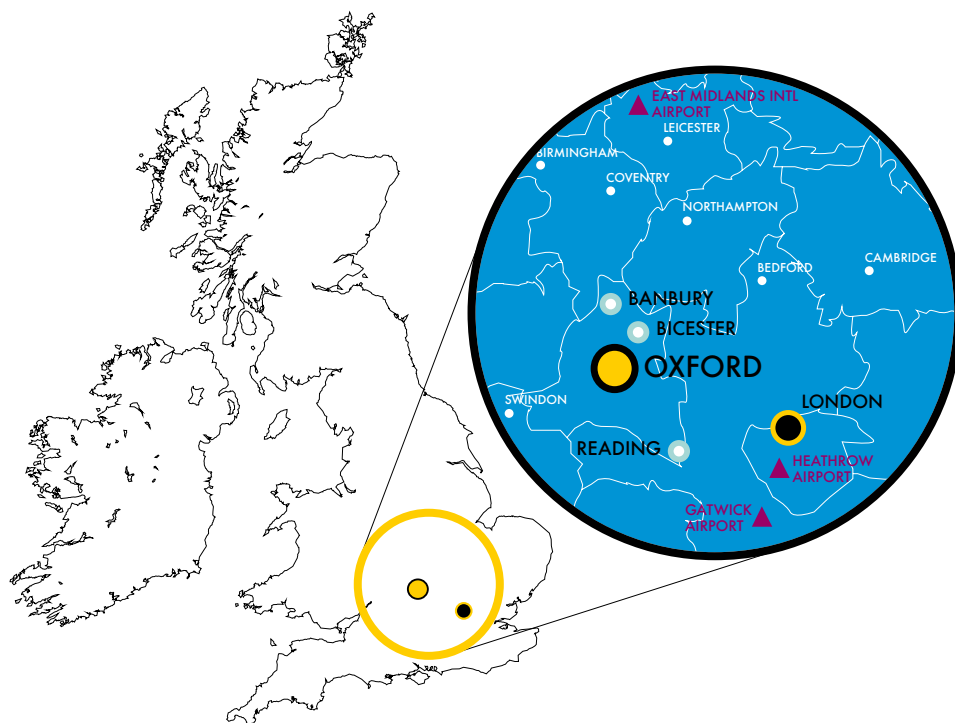
The College is an exciting place to study and we have invested £6 million in new facilities to improve the learning experience and campus environment. This includes hair and beauty salons, a high-tech gym and refurbishment of the Waterside Restaurant, providing students with opportunities to put their new skills into practice in a real life situation.

Oxford is a wonderful place to live and study – famous the world over for its cultural and university heritage, providing many beautiful buildings to visit. Over a thousand students of other nationalities study in Oxford, enjoying its stunning architecture, vibrancy and youthful atmosphere. There are plenty of restaurants, bars, pubs and nightclubs and you can also enjoy rowing, punting, the theatre and museums.

To see what you can study at City of Oxford College, go to pages 32-48.



City of Oxford College students relaxing



READING COLLEGE

The modern, beautiful campus at Reading, with unrivalled facilities, is set within a thriving global business town and has a diverse community of students from all over the world.

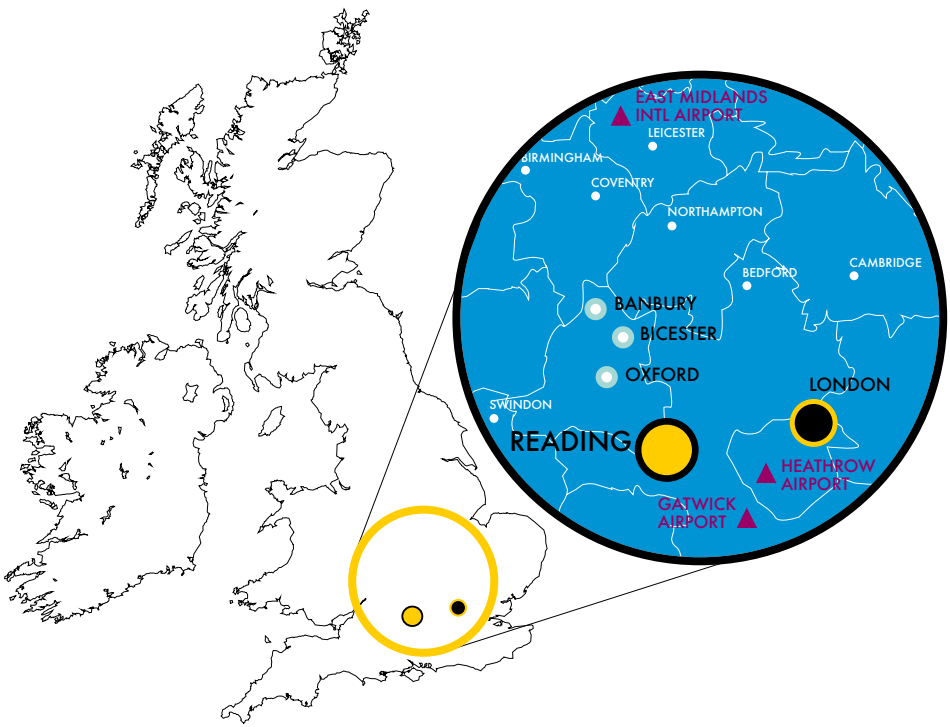
The campus enjoys easy access to London and Heathrow and benefits from student residence right next to the College.

Famous as one of the UK's top retail destinations, Reading offers much more than excellent shopping: Michelin Star restaurants, over eight hundred listed buildings and monuments, two National Trails and unspoilt countryside alongside magnificent stretches of the River Thames. There are also plenty of arts and entertainment facilities within the town, with theatres and concert halls and of course, the famous Reading Festival. For sports fans, there is the Madejski Stadium, home to Reading Football Club and the London Irish Rugby Club.

To see what you can study at Reading College, go to pages 32-48.



Reading Campus offers great student facilities



The Oracle shopping centre, Reading

BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE, BANBURY CAMPUS

Last year our Banbury campus benefitted from a multi-million pound development, providing students with an attractive and inspiring learning space to learn within.

The College specialises in courses in art and design, motor vehicle and engineering.

Each year our students are given the opportunity to participate in many exciting student collaborations, competitions and projects.

The College has invested millions of pounds in new facilities to improve the learning experience of our students. This includes:

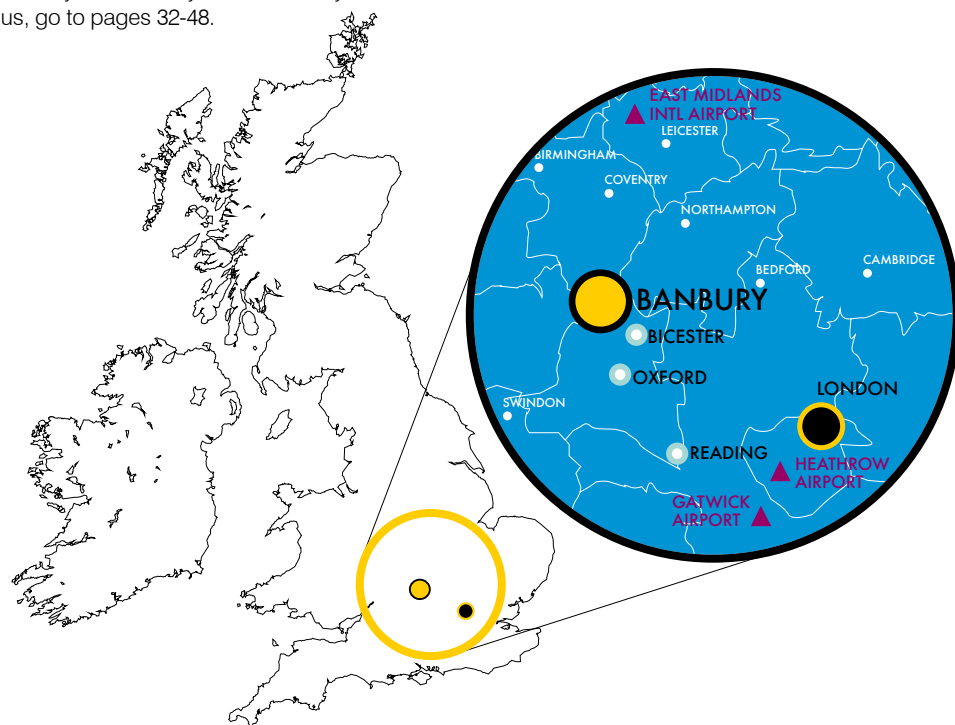
- a brand new building for the School of Creative Arts
- state-of-the-art media production facilities
- new facilities for motor vehicle, including a fully-operational MOT (vehicle safety test) bay

Banbury is a pretty, historic market town. It is conveniently located approximately 15 minutes by train from Oxford city centre.

To see what you can study at our Banbury campus, go to pages 32-48.



Creative Arts Centre, Banbury Campus



BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE, BICESTER CAMPUS

Bicester campus is a specialist performance and engineering centre, and home to our motorsports engineering and environmental technology courses. The College is a nationally recognised Centre of Excellence for Composite Manufacture and the perfect base for motorsports students.

Our Bicester campus is at the heart of the UK's motor racing industry, in particular F1, and just a few miles from Silverstone.

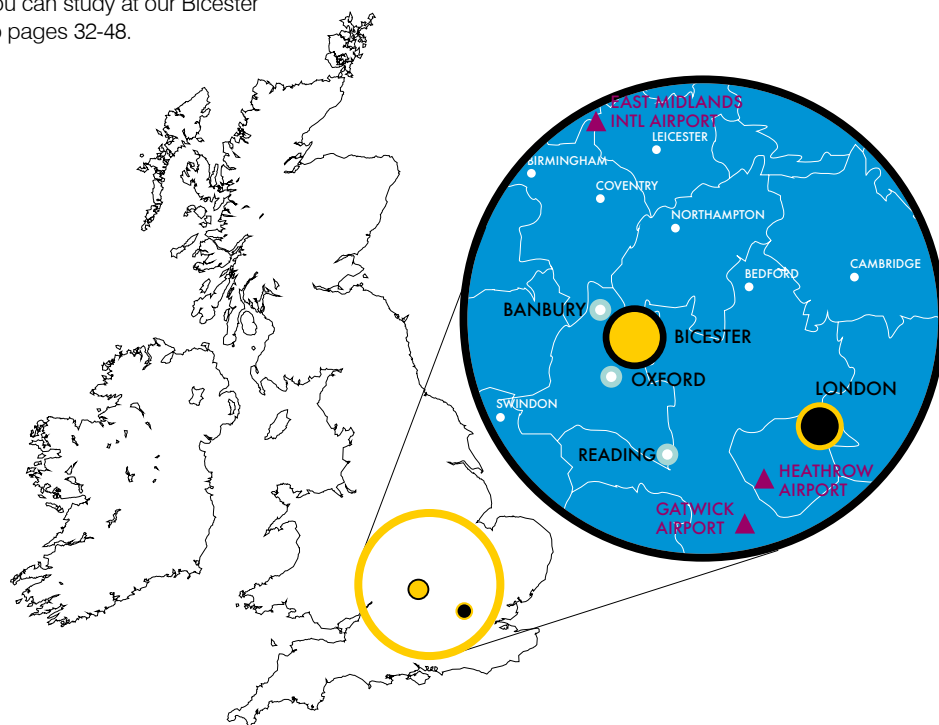
You will find the latest technology here, including a full size autoclave and a 'clean zone' for high level performance engineering:

- fabrication and welding - featuring the latest TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding technology
- engineering machining - including CNC (computer numerical control) machining and material testing
- hand fit workshop
- motorsport workshop - including sub-assembly and engine rebuild
- specialist project workshops



Students onsite at the Bicester campus

To see what you can study at our Bicester campus, go to pages 32-48.



“

I REALLY WANTED TO DO MOTORSPORT BUT HAD TO IMPROVE MY ENGLISH FIRST. THE ENGLISH COURSE HELPED ME WITH MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND WRITING ESSAYS. I SPENT A YEAR STUDYING HARD AND MADE FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. NOW I'M STUDYING ON THE MOTORSPORT COURSE AT THE COLLEGE.

”

Piotr Burda
Extended Diploma in Motorsport

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Hook up to Wi-Fi. Browse the web on an iPad. Train in a professional environment. Relax over a cup of coffee. Change your hairstyle. Get active. Students can do all this and more with Activate Learning in our innovative spaces.

Industry standard facilities

Across our campuses we have industry standard teaching areas, giving you a realistic and professional working environment to learn within. This includes art studios, hair and beauty salons, restaurants, technology and construction centres, performing arts spaces and digital media zones.

Digital learning

You'll love our learning zones which are specifically designed for independent and collaborative study. They are ideal spaces for students to work alongside our professional learning coaches.

There is plenty of technology available including:

- Samsung internet TV and Apple TV
- HP Touchsmart PCs and Samsung docked laptops
- iPads and laptops
- Wireless headphones
- Video conference facilities

You'll also have access to our virtual learning environment (Moodle) which will support your learning both inside and outside the College.



“

I WANTED TO WORK IN MEDIA PRODUCTION AND THIS COURSE HAS GIVEN ME EXPERIENCE OF CAMERA WORK AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES. MY AMBITION IS TO BECOME A PRODUCER.

”

Sean Mari
Diploma in Media



LIFE IN COLLEGE

Studying is just part of the story at College. We want all of our students to feel at home and part of our College community. We encourage our international students to take part in social and sporting activities.

Get active

Details of social events are displayed on noticeboards and plasma screens around the campuses. There are lots of different groups to join such as the psychology club, film club and multi-faith club, as well as sports activities including badminton, football, basketball and Zumba.

Make a difference

You will have the opportunity to join our Students' Union (SU). Run by students for students, the Union organises events, such as parties and fundraising activities. The SU also plays a role in shaping the college experience for all students by working closely with senior management.



Another way to get involved is to volunteer to become a student representative. Each tutor group has a spokesperson who gathers other students' opinions on what is and isn't working and supports the SU to make improvements.

Café culture

You can meet your friends over food and drink in one of our cafés or restaurants which offer a range of snacks, sandwiches and hot food. The Kitchen at Reading College, The Cherwell Restaurant and Bistro at Banbury and Waterside Restaurant at Oxford help our students gain real life experience, serving competitively priced meals prepared and served by students.

Volunteer

We also encourage all students to participate in volunteering activities (subject to visa restrictions) that help others in the College or the local community. Volunteering activities are a great way to mix with others and gain useful experience to help you become more employable in the future.

Events

You will also have the chance to mix and learn with other students on different courses, and showcase your skills, knowledge and talents at many events. Previously this has included sharing knowledge during Black History Month, showcasing ideas during Go Green Week and demonstrating innovative and creative ideas during National Science and Engineering Week.



“

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COLLEGE BY BEING INVOLVED IN THE STUDENTS' UNION. IT'S NOT JUST EVENTS, ALTHOUGH WE DO PLENTY OF THOSE. I GO TO GOVERNORS' MEETINGS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETINGS... I TALK ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS WANT. THAT'S MY JOB! I'D URGE EVERYONE TO COME TO THE SU BECAUSE IT'S GOOD FUN AND WE CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT IN COLLEGE.

”

Lorenza Nogueira
SU President

STUDENT SUPPORT

During your time with us we will support you every step of the way. You will have a full induction programme on arrival to help you adjust to life in the UK. Throughout your studies, you will have regular tutorials with your individual tutor where you will receive advice and support. We offer special English courses if English is not your first language. We have good links with top universities and will be able to advise you on the best pathway.

Our staff are friendly and approachable, so you can ask for help when needed.

Tutorial support: all students will have an individual learning plan to track and review their academic progress.

Welfare and visas: help is available through our admissions team.

Mentoring: we provide a mentoring service for all our students. Mentors are students, who want to help other students with things like coursework and making friends.

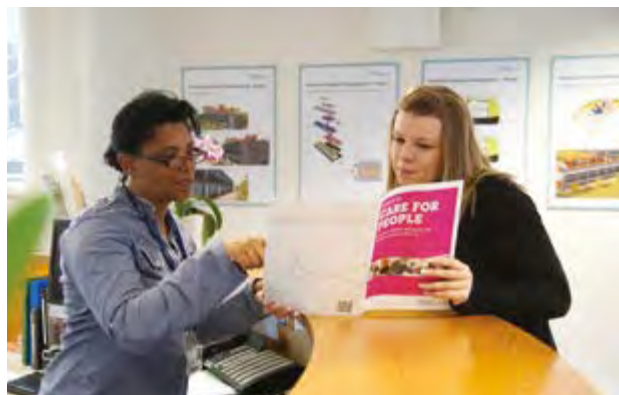
Careers guidance: our Careers team can help plan your progression to university or work and can also offer guidance on part-time work (subject to visa restrictions).

Counselling: our counsellors ensure that all students have all the support they need to be healthy and safe.

College nurse: based on three of the College sites, the nurse provides a confidential health service to students.

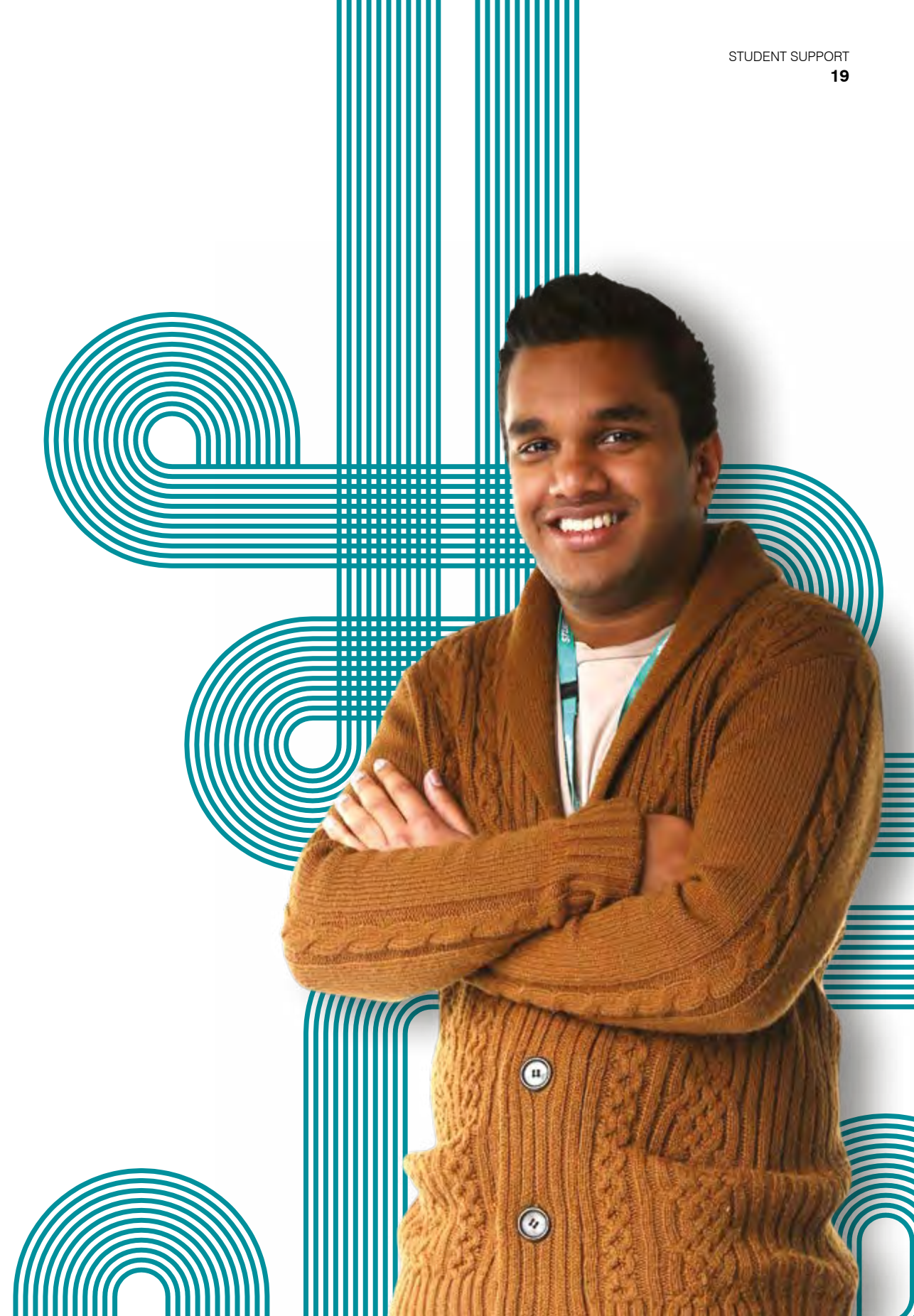
The Faith Support team: the team is available for all students, regardless of faith. There is a quiet/prayer room on all campuses.

Disability support: we have a range of services supporting students with disabilities. Please contact us as early as possible if you would like to discuss any support you may require.



“
IT HAS BEEN A REALLY GOOD
MOVE FOR ME. I DEFINITELY
FEEL LIKE THIS WILL HELP TO
GIVE ME THE EDGE WHEN IT
COMES TO EMPLOYMENT.
”

Kylla Abrigo
AAT Accounting



ACCOMMODATION

We understand that your accommodation is a very important part of your time here. A good home will help you settle into English life quickly and help to improve your language skills. It is recommended that you apply for accommodation as soon as you receive an offer letter.

Before you arrive we can help you with important arrangements such as your accommodation and insurance. We can help you find homestay or student residential accommodation or help with short stay accommodation such as hotels or hostels. Our staff can advise you on the different options available.

Oxford

We can arrange homestay or off-campus student residential accommodation approx. 20-30 minutes from the city centre.

Reading

We can arrange homestay in and around the town centre or student residential accommodation - on-campus at Fawley Bridge or off-campus at Green Road, Unite or Trinity Hall in central Reading.

Banbury and Bicester

We can arrange homestay which is approx. 20-30 minutes from the town centre. There is no student residential accommodation in either town.

Homestay

Homestay is when students share a house with a family. Families can vary from young couples

with children, to single parents and elderly couples. All will speak English fluently so it is one of the best ways for you to improve your English. You will have the opportunity to get involved in everyday life, from eating together to watching British television.

Most host families are in towns and villages surrounding the centre and all of the local towns have regular bus or train services. Students can purchase passes to provide a cheaper option. Journey time is usually between 20 – 30 minutes, making travel to the College quick and easy.

We use a professional accommodation provider who checks that host families will provide a safe environment for students to live in. The cost for homestay varies dependent on location (approx £160-£200 per week half-board).

Many students choose half board homestay accommodation as this allows them to have breakfast and dinner at home. A few homestays offer self-catering options.



Student residence

Recommended student residences are authorised and licensed. This is a great opportunity to live with other students and make friends with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Student residence is only suitable for students over 18 years old who prefer more independent living. This is often only available for full academic year bookings (outside of the summer period). It is important to book in advance – especially in September/October.

Student residence offers en-suite rooms in flats of 4, 5 and 6 bedrooms as well as self-contained studios. Rooms are furnished with a small double bed, desk, wardrobe and en-suite bathroom. The furnished kitchen and comfortable living room are shared with the other students in the flat. Other facilities are high speed broadband (at an additional cost), a communal TV, bike storage and on-site laundry.

Prices vary, but start from £110 per week. In Reading a further residence is available for mature students aged 23 and over which is not ensuite and prices are from £90 per week

“

I AM FROM VIETNAM AND I'VE MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS WITH LOTS OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

”

Anh Dao

English as a Foreign Language



HOW YOU CAN APPLY

The easiest way for you to apply for a course is to complete the online application form on our website. Alternatively, you can download the form and return it to us by email, courier or mail along with other supporting documents. For all FE courses please apply before the end of June. If you are applying for a HE course, this needs to be done through UCAS before 15 January.

Seven steps to college

APPLY FOR A COURSE

SEND YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

HAVE AN INTERVIEW VIA SKYPE/TELEPHONE

PAY A DEPOSIT

APPLY FOR A VISA

PAY YOUR TUITION FEES

COME TO COLLEGE!

If you are applying to study A-levels or a Level 3 diploma, here's what you need to send:

- your completed application form
- a copy of your passport (photograph and personal details page and any pages which contain visas or entry/exit stamps)
- a copy of all your examination certificates and transcript of results (with certified translation in English)
- evidence of your English language level which satisfies the UK Visas and Immigration's Tier 4 requirements (i.e. valid IELTS certificate)
- portfolio of your artwork (if you are applying for an art and design course)

- a reference from your recent school or employer
- **If you are applying for an English Language course, here's what you need to send:**
- your completed application form
- a copy of your passport (photograph and personal details page and any pages which contain visas or entry/exit stamps)
- evidence of your English language level which satisfies the UK Visas and Immigration's Tier 4 requirements (i.e. valid IELTS certificate)

If you are applying under the child/student visitor visa route and you have no English language certificate, then we ask you to complete our English writing test (in your own handwriting).

If you are applying for a degree course (foundation degree or HND):

Please refer to our website to ensure you follow the correct application process. Many of these courses require students to apply through UCAS rather than direct to the College. If you are unsure about how to apply for a degree course, please contact an International Admissions Adviser.

Art and design course portfolio

If you are applying for an art and design course, you will also need to send an art portfolio. You may send these documents by mail, courier, email or fax.

We look forward to receiving your application. You should apply as soon as you can as our courses fill up quickly and we don't want you to miss out on your first choice. You will also need to allow time for your visa process where necessary.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

You can contact us to discuss:

- which courses would be most suitable
- The qualifications needed
- The visa requirements and costs

For a place at Banbury and Bicester College, City of Oxford College or Reading College:

Email: international@activatelearning.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0)118 955 4300

Fax: +44 (0) 118 955 4596

Post: Reading College
Student Services
Kings Road, Reading
Berkshire, RG1 4HJ
United Kingdom



“

THE COURSE HAS ENABLED ME TO DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNIQUES WHICH HAS HELPED ME FOR UNIVERSITY INTERVIEWS.

”

Crystal Burston
Extended Diploma in Fashion

VISAS

There are different types of visas, each with their own conditions and restrictions. The type of student visa you require will depend on your age, the type of course you wish to study and the length of your course.

Our Colleges fully comply with the UK Visas and Immigration guidelines for UK student visas. To find out about which UK student visa is applicable for you, your eligibility for the visa and about extending your stay, please visit:

UK Visas and Immigration:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

UK Council for International Affairs:

www.ukcisa.org.uk

You are also advised to check the VSF Global website (www.vfsglobal.com) in your country for up-to-date visa application procedures. Your own country's visa website will be linked through here.

“

THE COLLEGE WAS
RECOMMENDED TO ME
TO IMPROVE MY ENGLISH
LANGUAGE. AT FIRST I
THOUGHT I WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO DO IT, BUT MY
TEACHERS WERE ALWAYS
THERE FOR ME.

”

Theresa Zinway
English as a Foreign Language

TIER 4

Activate Learning has a Tier 4 Sponsor licence and is listed on the Tier 4 Register of Sponsors, supporting your visa application.

Remember, you can also get advice or extend your visa from inside the UK, by contacting our advisers* at: international@activatelearning.ac.uk

*Our advisers are trained to provide basic guidance; however, it is recommended that you seek guidance from a specialist if you need further support with your visa application.



LIFE IN THE UK

The UK is very open-minded and culturally diverse. Due to a long history of immigration, you will find restaurants and shops from all around the world. You will experience this multiculturalism throughout the country, e.g. Our colleges are home to students of about 100 different nationalities.

During your application process you will also receive more guidance on studying in the UK.

Once you arrive, you will receive full induction and orientation. There will be staff to help you set up a bank account, join student activities, organise trips and help with any other query you might have.

On our College websites you will find some further information you might find useful to know before you get here about the cost of living, health, banking and the climate in the UK.

www.banbury-bicester.ac.uk

www.cityofoxford.ac.uk

www.reading-college.ac.uk

“

IT'S BEEN INCREDIBLE - THE BEST DECISION I HAVE EVER MADE. I HAVE BEEN OFFERED A PLACE AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MODERN MUSIC IN MANCHESTER, TO DO A BA HONS IN PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANSHIP.

”

Sophie Hal
Extended Diploma in Music Practice



St Paul's Cathedral, London

EXPLORING THE UK

Our Colleges are located in the heart of England and from each you will be ideally placed to explore many other UK locations.

You can also enjoy day trips to many different attractions. Get a taste of British royalty when you visit the magnificent Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world and the official country residence of Her Majesty The Queen, or go back in time to ancient Britain with a trip to the iconic Stonehenge monument.

You can also visit the stunning Blenheim Palace, home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and a World Heritage site or see the Bodleian Library in Oxford which opened in 1602.

There are also many National Trust properties, country parks and nature reserves nearby, and even a fun day out at Legoland theme park.



Windsor Castle, Windsor



The London Eye, London



Palace of Westminster and Big Ben, London



OUR COURSES

STUDYING IN THE UK

Studying at one of our Colleges allows you to explore the UK's fascinating heritage, have fun and gain recognised qualifications that are valued all over the world. Our Colleges are diverse and you will meet people of many nationalities, sharing their backgrounds and discovering new perspectives.

UK education:

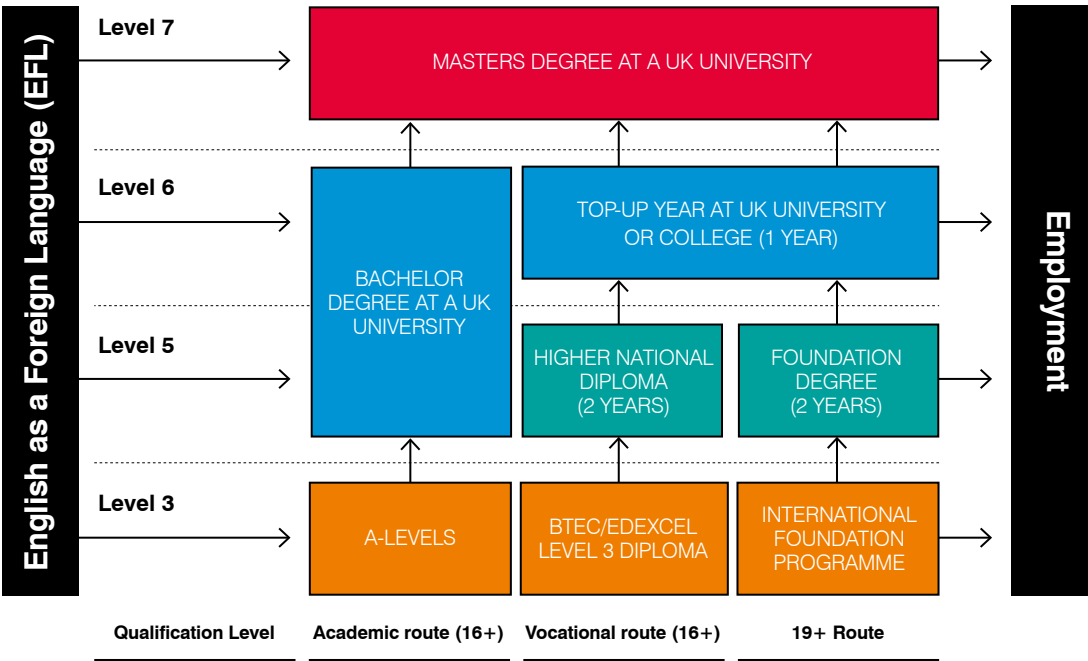
At 16 years of age, students in the UK sit GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations in an average of eight subjects including English and maths. An alternative to GCSEs are vocational qualifications at Level 2 such as first diplomas.

GCSE students then progress on to A-Levels or a Level 3 extended diploma course in a vocational area such as IT, catering or engineering. Following this, you can progress to degree level studies or enter employment.

International student route:

Most of our courses are available to international students. In addition to English (at all levels), you can study A-Levels, a BTEC diploma or as a mature learner, complete our one-year International Study or Foundation Programme.

At degree level, our foundation degrees and HNDs are equivalent to year one and year two of a BA/BSc (Hons) degree and are recognised in industries across the world. You can also choose to progress on to a one-year BA (Hons) top-up programme with one of our colleges or with many UK universities, including our partner universities.



OUR UK-BASED INTERNATIONAL COURSES

Course	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
A-Levels	✓			
Administration	✓			
Art, design, graphics and fashion	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business and finance	✓	✓	✓	
Care/health and social care	✓			
Childcare	✓			
Computing and IT	✓	✓	✓	
Construction and building services	✓			
EFL				
Engineering	✓	✓	✓	
English and maths	✓			
Furniture	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gaming				
Hair and beauty	✓			
Hospitality and catering				
Music and performing arts				
Motorsport	✓			
Photography and digital arts				
Public services	✓			
Science	✓			
Sport and sports science	✓			
Teacher training		✓	✓	✓
Travel and tourism	✓			



ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

In our English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes – led by highly qualified teachers – you will improve your language, enabling you to use English more effectively in everyday life and in an academic environment. Many students complete their English course with us and then join our International Foundation/Study Programme, summer school, A-Levels or move on to a degree at university.

Type	Course	Location
Full time courses	Elements	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English as a Foreign Language (EFL) - intensive	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Summer school	EFL summer school (16+)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	UK university preparation summer school	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English for media production (16+)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English for art and design	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Short courses	English examination courses at all levels	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English literature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Pronunciation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English for international relations	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	English for specific purposes (ESP) <i>e.g. English for social affairs, for engineering, for customer services, etc.</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Extra options	Business English	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	IELTS preparation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Please see our website for more information about each course.



Accredited by the
BRITISH COUNCIL
for the teaching
of English



LEVEL 2 DIPLOMAS (16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS ONLY)

If you are 16 or 17 years old, these vocational one-year Level 2 Diplomas will provide you with the essential skills and knowledge you will need to progress within your chosen field. You will also have opportunities to develop your understanding in a creative and enjoyable way, combining academic learning with hands-on experience. Please apply before the end of June for our September intake.

Category	Subjects	Campus
Art, design and graphics	Art and Design BTEC Level 2 Certificate	● ○ ○ ○
	Art and Design Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	Graphics and Digital Imaging BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
Business and IT	Administration Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Business BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Business Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	Cloud Technologies Level 2	○ ● ○ ○
	Information and Creative Technology Level 2 Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
	ICT Level 2	○ ● ○ ○
	ICT Practitioners BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	ITQ IT User Skills Level 2	● ○ ○ ○
Catering and hospitality	Social Digital Marketing Level 2	○ ● ○ ○
Catering and hospitality	Chef and Restaurant Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Professional Chef's Diploma Level 2	○ ● ● ○
Construction and Building Services	Brickwork Trowel Trades Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Electrical Installation Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Joinery level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Painting and decorating Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Plumbing Studies Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Site Carpentry Level 2 Diploma	○ ○ ● ○

Engineering and motorsports	Engineering BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate	● ● ○ ○
	Motorsport Engineering Level 2 Extended Certificate	○ ○ ● ○
Furniture	Principles and Practice of Furniture Making Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ● ○
Hair, beauty and therapies	Barbering Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Beauty Therapy Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Beauty therapy NVQ 2	○ ● ● ○
	Hairdressing NVQ 2	○ ● ● ○
	Hair and Media Make-up Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Ladies and gents Hairdressing Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
Health, childcare and social care	Children's Care, Learning and Development Level 2	○ ● ● ○
	Health and Social Care Level 2	○ ● ● ○
	Health and social care BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Introduction to early years education and care CACHE Level 2 Certificate (QCF)	● ○ ○ ○
	Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools CACHE Level 2 Certificate (QCF)	● ○ ○ ○
Media, photography and digital arts	Creative Media Production BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Digital Media Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Gaming and Animation Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Media Level 2 Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
Motor Vehicle	Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Level 2 Certificate	● ○ ○ ○
	Vehicle Maintenance Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ● ○
Music and performing arts	Music BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Performing Arts BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Performing Arts Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Popular Music Level 2 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
Science	Applied Science BTEC Level 2 Diploma	● ○ ○ ○

Sports	Exercise, health and Fitness Instructing Level 2 VTCT Diploma	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Sports Studies Level 2 diploma	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Sport BTEC Level 2 Diploma	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Sports Level 2 Diploma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel and tourism	Event Planning NCFE Level 2 Certificate	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Travel and Tourism Level 2 Diploma	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Travel and Tourism BTEC Level 2 Diploma	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uniformed Public Services	Public Services Level 2 Diploma	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Uniformed Public services BTEC Level 2 Diploma	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



A-LEVELS

In the UK, A-Levels are the most popular entry route to university. Dedicated, highly qualified staff will support you to success. We have some of the best pass rates in the country with our A-Level students achieving a pass rate of 99%. You will also have English support classes throughout the two-year A-Level programme. Please apply before the end of June for our September intake.

Success at A-Level study demonstrates that you have developed analytical thinking, communication and independent research skills, as well as specific subject related knowledge.

This two-year programme provides a combination of study of three A-Levels plus an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). A-Levels are suitable for students over 16 years of age.

Course	Location			
Accounting	●	○	○	○
Art and design	○	●	○	○
Biology	●	●	○	○
Business studies	●	●	○	○
Chemistry	●	●	○	○
Drama and theatre studies	○	●	○	○
Economics	●	●	○	○
English language and literature	●	●	○	○
English literature	●	●	○	○
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	●	○	○	○
Further maths	●	○	○	○
Geography	●	●	○	○
Government and politics	●	●	○	○
History	●	●	○	○
Law	●	●	○	○
Mathematics	●	●	○	○
Media studies	●	●	○	○
Philosophy and ethics	●	●	○	○
Photography	○	●	○	○
Physics	●	●	○	○
Psychology	●	●	○	○
Sociology	●	●	○	○

Please see our website for more information about each course.



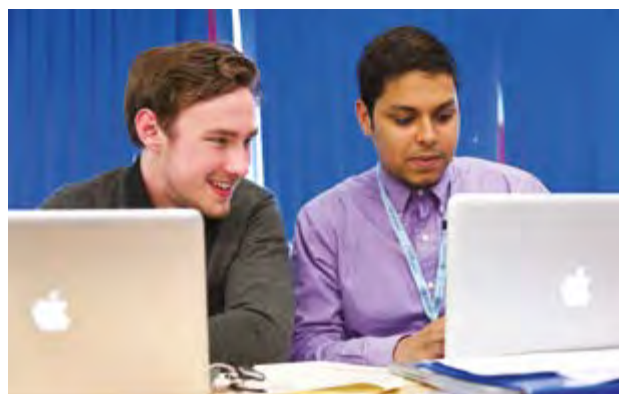
FOUNDATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY

These one-year full-time intensive courses are especially designed to provide international students with the opportunity to gain the qualifications and skills required for entry into a wide range of UK university degree courses. Please apply before the end of June for our September intake.

Our university preparation courses help you build academic study in your chosen specialism as well as academic English while strengthening your study skills. On successful completion you will be:

- awarded a programme certificate, after having been assessed in your subject specialism
- ready to take an IELTS examination which is widely accepted by UK universities as evidence of your English language ability

For art and design students, studying an art foundation course is recommended by UK universities as a good preparation, giving exposure to a variety of media. This will not only support your studies but help you decide on a subject specialism.



INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMME - OXFORD

Subjects	Modules	Example degree routes
Business and humanities	Business studies, law, psychology, European studies, tourism, culture and society	Business and humanities - business management, administration, marketing, travel and tourism, politics, journalism
Creative studies	Film and television studies, literature, performing arts	Creative studies - graphic design, animation, advertising, TV production, theatre studies
Science	Biology, chemistry, physics, maths, programming	Science - chemistry, biological, sciences, physiotherapy, forensic science

INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMME - READING

Subjects	Modules	Example degree routes
Business	Business management, law (English legal system), IT	Analysis, management, administration, marketing, travel and tourism
Business (accounting)	Business management, business finance, IT	Business studies, accounting, economics, marketing, event management
Higher education	Biology, education studies, English language and literature	Teaching, history, English
Health and social care	Professional healthcare practice (UK), psychological perspectives, human physiology	Adult nursing, child health nursing, learning disabilities, midwifery, social work
Humanities	History, law (humanities option), English language/literature, physiology	History, law, politics, journalism
Psychology	Psychology, human physiology, sociology	Psychology, deaf studies, counseling, occupational therapy, sociology
Science	Chemistry, human biology, psychology	Chemistry, biological sciences, physiotherapy, forensic science
Social science	Sociology perspectives, international relations and politics, communication studies	Social work, criminology and law, media, sociology, politics

ART AND DESIGN FOUNDATION DIPLOMA - OXFORD AND READING

Subjects	Modules	Example degree routes
Art and design	Digital media, photography, ceramics, metal, wood, screen print	Graphic design, illustration, animation, fashion design, advertising, photography, product design

Please see our website for more information about each course.

LEVEL 3 DIPLOMAS

Diplomas are an alternative education route for students in the UK. The gold standard for vocational education, these two-year programmes focus on practical learning. They are designed to help you develop industry skills that will help you successfully progress into employment or on to university. Please apply before the end of June for our September intake.

Diplomas are available across a wide range of sectors and are continually updated to meet the needs of the relevant industries and employers.

Category	Subjects	Campus
Art, design and graphics	Art and design BTEC Foundation Diploma	● ● ● ○
	Art and design BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
	Fashion and clothing BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Fashion and styling BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
	Fashion, design and media BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Graphic design BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	Graphics and digital Design BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Retail skills window merchandising BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
Business and IT	AAT Accounting Diploma (fast track)	● ● ○ ○
	Business BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
	ICT BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	ICT Practitioners BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Level 3 Extended Diploma Marketing, Retail and Events Management	○ ○ ● ○
	Mobile app and software development Level 3 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
Catering and hospitality	Hospitality supervision and leadership ADD Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Food and beverage service Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
Engineering and motorsports	Engineering BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	Engineering motorsport BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ○ ○ ●
Furniture	Principles and practice of furniture design and making City & Guilds Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
Campus key: ● Reading ● Oxford ● Banbury ● Bicester		

Hair, beauty and therapies	Beauty therapy BTEC Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Hairdressing BTEC Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Hair and make-up BTEC Diploma	● ○ ● ○
	Salon management VTCT Level 4 Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
Health, childcare and social care	Health and social care BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
Media, photography and digital arts	Media BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
	Creative media production (TV and film) BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ● ○
	Creative media production (media) BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Photography and digital imaging BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Photography BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ● ○
	Games development Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Games development Diploma	○ ○ ● ○
Music and performing arts	Music BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Music technology BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
	Music practice BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Performing arts BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
	Dance BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ● ○
Science	Forensic science BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Applied science BTEC Extended Diploma	● ○ ○ ○
Sports	Sport and exercise science BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
	Sport (basketball) BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Sport (golf) BTEC Extended Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Sailing and watersports Diploma	○ ● ○ ○
	Sport coaching and fitness BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ○ ○
Travel and tourism	Travel and tourism BTEC Extended Diploma	● ● ● ○
Campus key: ● Reading ● Oxford ● Banbury ● Bicester		

HIGHER EDUCATION

Activate Learning Colleges offer you routes to progress on to university level education. With us, you can complete Level 4 and 5 courses which allow you to enter a UK university for a one year (top-up) to achieve a full BA/BSc Hons degree. In some cases we offer courses right through to a Level 6 full honours degree. Our foundation degrees are accredited and awarded by partner universities such as Oxford Brookes University and Bucks New University. Applications have to be made through UCAS before 15 January.

Get a Level 6 (BA/BSc) degree through college instead of university. This is an increasingly popular choice, but why?

Individual support – You will typically be in a small class with industry-experienced lecturers, which means you get individual attention and support.

Resources – Enrolling on a higher education programme which leads to a university award means you will have access to resources at the university as well as the college.

Quality assurance – In the latest review from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Activate Learning was awarded the highest possible outcome for its management of higher education.

Level	Subjects	Campus
Level 3/4	Art and design BTEC Foundation Diploma (pre-degree)	● ○ ○ ○
Level 5 Higher National Diploma	HND Electrical and electronic engineering	● ○ ○ ○
	HND Computing and systems development	● ○ ○ ○
	HND Creative media studies	○ ○ ● ○
	HND Graphic design	○ ○ ● ○
Level 5 Foundation Degree (FdA)	FdA Creative arts and design practice	● ○ ● ○
	FdA Furniture design and make	○ ● ○ ○
	FdA Motorsports – performance and automotive technology	○ ○ ○ ●
Level 6	BA (Hons) Furniture: design and make	○ ● ○ ○
	CELTA teacher training	● ● ○ ○
	BA (Hons) Creative arts and design practice	○ ○ ● ○





EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

TEACHER TRAINING

We have many years of experience in teacher training and language teaching. Activate Learning has a forward-thinking approach with innovative teaching methods, backed up with modern facilities and cutting edge technology.

Level	Subjects	Campus
Teacher training for English as a foreign language	Understanding English grammar for teachers This will help any teacher but particularly those about to embark on the CELTA/TKT programme.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	ESOL - teaching knowledge test (TKT) TKT is a test that focuses on the teaching knowledge needed by teachers of primary, secondary or adult learners of English, anywhere in the world. It is a useful precursor to the CELTA course.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
CELTA	Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) CELTA is the most popular qualification for students with little or no previous teaching experience. It opens up a whole world of exciting English language teaching opportunities.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Professional development for education professionals	Many of the following courses can be delivered in-country.	
	Headteacher study programme	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Introduction to trainer skills	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Assessing vocational achievement	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Supporting teaching and learning in schools	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Pass It On – supporting best practice sharing in teaching	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Education management	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Coaching and mentoring	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Active learning	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>



BESPOKE: ENGLISH, VOCATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL

We can offer tailor-made courses based on your requirements - whether this is for a small group or an employer - and can focus on a range of vocational or professional subjects.

These courses can range in length from an intensive course with accommodation and excursions to distance-learning and can be delivered either in the UK or in-country. We have experience in providing a variety of courses for groups of learners, such as business English to MBA students from Morocco, English to university professors from Saudi Arabia, motor vehicle training to students from Oman and education management to headteachers from China.

Activate Learning provides training for over 700 employers which enables us to keep up-to-date with professional knowledge and skill requirements. We were the first in the region to acquire the full Training Quality Standard (TQS) for Excellence in Employer Engagement, establishing our reputation for delivering professional training.

Through our highly trained and experienced teachers of English as a Foreign Language, we can offer a tailored course to suit you in a variety of areas, such as:

- General English
- Professional English (for managers/directors, etc)
- English for customer service industries
- English for special purposes: for professionals, teachers, for engineering, for health professions, etc.

We can arrange numerous professional courses to suit you in a variety of areas, such as:

- Leadership and management, impression management
- Introduction to company accounts, finance for non-financial managers/directors
- Human resource practice (CIPD), coaching and mentoring, talent management, leading change
- Team leading, team marketing, first line management
- Cisco training, social digital media, Microsoft Academy, cloud technologies, application

visualisation and web development, mobile application development for iOS & Android

- CCTV operations, security, first aid (paediatric and emergency), health and safety, fire safety

Our highly skilled lecturers are specialists in vocational courses, such as:

- Construction and the built environment
- Renewable energies
- Electrical and electronics
- Plumbing, gas and heating (commercial and domestic)
- Construction and joinery including heritage skills in the building industry and eco-construction
- Motor vehicle and composite manufacture

For more details please contact our international office on +44(0)118 955 4648 or international@activatelearning.ac.uk

“

THE DIFFERENT PROJECTS,
WORKING IN THE LABS,
SUPPORTING TUTORS - I LOVE
EVERYTHING ABOUT MY COURSE!
I'M GOING ON TO UNIVERSITY TO
STUDY DENTAL HYGIENE.

”

Lourds Sithambaranathan
BTEC Diploma in Applied Science



All information in this guide is correct at the time of going to print but may be subject to change. All programmes need a minimum number of students before they can run. We advise you not to buy any equipment until you have confirmation that the programme will run.

Our programmes are delivered in partnership with the following organisations:



Accredited by the



for the teaching
of English



CITY OF OXFORD COLLEGE

Oxford city centre campus

Oxpens Road, Oxford

OX1 1SA

www.cityofoxford.ac.uk

READING COLLEGE

Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire

RG1 4HJ

www.reading-college.ac.uk

BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE

Banbury campus

Broughton Road, Banbury

OX16 9QA

Bicester campus

Telford House, Telford Road Bicester

OX26 4LA

www.banbury-bicester.ac.uk

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