



The Advanced Learner's programme (ALP), 16 -17 years

Mastery, ease and eloquence: a sublime multilingual performance

The ALP is the most rigorous OISE course designed specifically for students aged 16-17 who have an advanced level of English and want to advance to the next level of fluency. The course is ideal for advanced communicators wanting to perfect their talent for English where other programmes do not deliver.

Programme

Rigorous English tuition for the most ambitious and capable students wanting a challenge • residence in an Oxford University college • advanced grammar, vocabulary and expressions relevant to advanced and complex situations • group projects encourage interaction and confidence in language ability • approach to learning fosters good study techniques preparing students for university education and the workplace

The Advanced Learners programme is a full time course of 30 hours of tuition per week with 6-8 per class. The programme is designed for the most ambitious learners with an advanced level of English. This course breaks with conventional language teaching methods to offer a programme that goes beyond the learning of English language; fully preparing students for their university education and professional future. Language skills of communication, interaction and accuracy are combined with academic skills of essay writing, giving presentations, debates and project work.

Every evening and during the weekend students will participate in a wide range of cultural activities to broaden their knowledge and further enhance the learning experience.

By the end of the course the students will have acquired superior language and communication skills that can be applied to a range of social, academic and professional contexts for the future, communicating in English with complete confidence.

Suitability

The course is ambitious 16-17 year olds with an advanced level of English (B2/C1).



Lessons

There are 3 hours of lessons each morning, with another 3 hours after lunch. Each lesson is 30 to 90 minutes long, taught by 2-3 different tutors to ensure dynamic tuition at a fast, consistent pace.

This challenging course is designed for young learners who want to excel in the English language, developing the skills within an academic and vocational context.

Lessons focus on learning study skills, pronunciation, oral and written communication in academic contexts. Tuition in class prepares students for public speaking and presentations as well as introducing them to advanced English that can be used in a professional context.

Sample Daily Timetable

9.00 – 9.30 (30 minutes) 'Text of the Day': Students work independently with an authentic text taken from British newspapers or online news sources such as the BBC. They answer questions which focus on their comprehension of the material and complete vocabulary exercises. The texts are each examples of a topical issue in the UK (such as immigration, party politics or the Welfare State).

9.30 – 11.00 (90 minutes) 'Writing Skills': They begin by discussing any difficulties which were found in the 'Text of the Day' and the answers to the comprehension questions and vocabulary work are reviewed with the teacher. Following this, an element of essay writing skills are focused on (such as use of paragraphs, style or register, and many more). The essay title for that evening's work is chosen. Students complete an essay each day, and detailed feedback is provided by their peers and teachers.

11.15 – 12.45 (90 minutes) 'Language Focus': Students work alone or in small groups to produce some written or spoken work. Often, they will be asked to write a paragraph or prepare a short spoken exercise, and from this the teacher will develop and analyse the language used. A strong focus on accuracy and a range of language is placed by the teacher and students are encouraged to explore the use of English in general and academic contexts through interactive and challenging tasks.

13.45 – 15.15 (90 minutes) 'Cultural Workshop': Students work either in groups of 8 (with 1



teacher) or 16 (with 2 teachers). Expanding on the topical issue raised by the 'Text of the Day', students watch videos, read articles and listen to radio podcasts to delve into the topic in more detail. Following this, students work in groups to prepare and perform a communicative task, such as a class debate, a short sketch, or a political interview. This allows them to explore the opinions and ideas related to the topic as well as developing their interaction skills in English. Performances are filmed, and feedback is given.

'Project Seminar': On the first day, students are divided into groups of 3 or 4 and they begin to work on a cultural investigation project, which culminates in a presentation on the final Friday. Their objective is to collect information on a topic of their choice, combined with original research, completed by interviewing people and exploring a range of opinions. This provides an excellent opportunity for students to interact with each other, as well as the challenge of giving a 20 minute group presentation in English at the end of the course.

16.30 – 17.30 (60 minutes) 'Presentation Skills': Students practice and develop the skills, language and confidence needed for giving presentations in a foreign language. Structural elements like 'how to start and finish a presentation' and language points such as 'signposting vocabulary' as well as general presentation proficiency such as 'body language' form the basis of a class which ensures students are confident and well-prepared, not only for their presentation on the last Friday, but for future speaking exams and university interviews.

Location and Duration

The course lasts for 2 weeks during the summer months.

OISE Oxford Advanced at Brasenose college, residential

