GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

To: Oxford Applicants
From: Sarah Mournighan, Senior Global Education Advisor
Subject: 2016-2017 Oxford Application

One of the first steps you should take in researching the University of Oxford is to attend an Oxford Information Session in spring 2015 or early fall 2015. At this meeting, I will review the education system and application procedures for Oxford to assist you in discerning whether this program would be appropriate for you.

REQUIREMENTS
Minimum 3.7 GPA at the time of application; 500-750 word essay detailing the specific academic theme you wish to follow while at Oxford; two faculty recommendations; strong writing sample; study proposal; GU application, transcript copy and photos.

COMPETITION
There are no guaranteed spaces for the University of Oxford program, and students’ applications are looked at individually, NOT as a competitive applicant pool. Students are strongly encouraged to have a second choice. Students may not appeal their application decision for Oxford. All committee decisions are considered final.

DEADLINES AND INTERVIEWS
The final deadline for 2016-2017 Oxford applications is October 1, 2015. Please note: the deadline for the first draft of your essay is September 23, 2015 so you must begin the process in early September. This date is significantly earlier than for other sites because the application process is semester-long. Upon submission of an application on October 1st there will be an initial selection of applicants by a panel of OGE advisors and Georgetown deans for an interview to be held by faculty members. At the end of October, applicants will be informed whether or not they have been selected for an interview. All students will be asked to submit a writing sample with their original application (at least 5-10 pages), and will be given supplemental forms to complete. Interviews will take place in November and early December. Students will be notified in December as to whether their applications will be forwarded to Oxford. The colleges at Oxford will then review the completed files and make decisions for visiting-student admission. Notification of the final placements will be sent directly to the student between February and April.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Please include two letters of recommendation with your Oxford application. The Oxford specific recommendation forms will be given to you at your info session or in your individual meeting. Your professors should follow the guidelines on the form and submit a written letter addressing your candidacy. Please do not have your professors fill out the recommendation form on the OGE website.

See Reverse for Information Regarding the Required Essay
ESSAY - ** September 23, 2015 is the deadline for submission of the mandatory draft of your essay.

**Please Note: A maximum of two drafts may be submitted for review.**

The essay should be 500-750 words in length and should be a thoughtful discussion of your proposed field of study. In addition to listing the titles of the tutorials that you would like to take each term, you should describe the over-arching intellectual theme that links these separate topics. For example, as an American Studies major, you might propose to concentrate on the changing sense of identity in the American political consciousness. Therefore, during your first term at Oxford, you might choose to read *Foundations of Modern Social and Political Thought* and *Philosophy of Social Science* to increase your understanding of the fundamental principles on which America was established. During the second term, you would read *Government and Politics of the United States* and *British History Since 1685*, focusing on the historical context and philosophical issues in Britain that influenced the creation of the first colonies in America. During the last term, you might refocus on global politics, examining the changing role of America in world affairs and its effects upon the American political consciousness. You would read *International Politics Since 1945* and *International Politics in the Era of the Two World Wars*.

*Keep in mind,* academic work at Oxford takes place within a tutorial system. As the name implies, students work with professors on an individual basis or, more commonly, in groups of two or three. While this allows a great amount of individual flexibility for the students, it requires a great deal of work for the professors. Occasionally, professors will be open to building unique tutorials for Visiting Students, but it is more likely that they will include you in existing tutorials. Certainly, Tutors for Admission will be looking to see if the tutorials that you propose to take are ones that are already being offered in their colleges. Many tutorials are given repetitively because they serve to prepare students for their very important third-year leaving exams. The titles of these tutorials can be found in *Examination Decrees and Regulations*. There is a copy of this book in the Resource Center for your use in formulating your study plan.

Acceptance into Oxford means that a tutor in one discipline has committed himself/herself to working with you over the course of an academic year to build a coherent group of tutorials. This person is called your moral tutor. For this reason, your essay, and your plan of study, should be firmly grounded in one discipline, although it is possible to take tutorials in one or two other disciplines. In the above plan of study, the student is grounded in politics, but is taking tutorials in history and philosophy.

The ability to write is of key importance to your acceptance to Oxford. For this reason, your advisor will not substantially change the essay and your writing sample. Do not expect your advisor to point out incorrect spelling or grammar structures. It is key that the committees reviewing your application get a sense of your own writing ability. Your advisor is, however, happy to review your essay for structure, content and appropriateness of topic.

**STUDY PROPOSAL**

Your study proposal should be a direct reflection of your essay. The Study Proposal should list two tutorials per trimester, for a total of six for the academic year. Students should select the majority of their courses within one discipline. As in your essay, your choice of courses needs to logically follow a theme.
OXFORD APPLICATION TIMETABLE FOR 2015-2016 TERM

(Applications can be found on the OGE website: http://studyabroad.georgetown.edu)

Early April/September, 2015: Oxford Information Sessions

September 23, 2015: MANDATORY DRAFT ESSAY DUE to OGE
(**Please Note: A maximum of two drafts may be submitted for review.**)

October 1, 2015: Oxford application deadline (including 2 recommendations, a 5-10 page writing sample, study proposal, Oxford essay and application form.)

October 22, 2015: Notification of interview selection by GU committee
(**Please Note: Students may not appeal their application decision for Oxford. All committee decisions are considered final.**)

November – early December, 2015: Interviews with Georgetown faculty

December 12, 2015: Notification of GU’s nominations to Oxford
(**Please Note: Students may not appeal their application decision for Oxford. All committee decisions are considered final.**)

February – April, 2016: Notification of final acceptances by Oxford

OXFORD CHECKLIST

___ Georgetown online application
___ Emergency Contact Information Questionnaire (online)
___ Alumni Network Questionnaire (online)
___ Study Proposal form with appropriate signatures
___ 2 faculty letters of recommendation (please include the Oxford recommendation form waiver with each letter)
___ Final Copy of Essay of 500-750 words
___ Four passport photos
___ Writing sample of at least 5-10 pages
___ Unofficial transcript (copy from MyAccess)