



University of Oxford Medical Elective Information



Medical electives at Oxford

The University of Oxford offers medical elective placements in several departments. These have been listed below, along with information on how to apply. Note well, a charge of £50 applies for every application.

- Cardiovascular medicine
- Clinical Neurology / Ophthalmology
- Emergency medicine
- Clinical medicine
- Surgery
- Psychiatry

Applications are selected on the basis of:

- Good communication skills in English
- A good academic record
- Quality of recommendation by two referees from your home university
- The extent to which the applicant is likely to benefit from this Elective
- A good CV

50 places are available to Elective students each year. Spaces per country are limited to promote equity.

You must be a medical student at the time of your Elective placement.

Qualified doctors are not accepted on the Elective programme.

Electives run from **4-10 weeks**

No funding is provided, and students are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation. This includes visa application cost (around 200USD), for which acceptance cannot be guaranteed.



The Application Process

1. **Payment** of the application fee. This is a non-refundable total of £50 per application. Once payed, you will receive an application number that will be used to start the online form.
2. Completion of the **online application form**. This can be found at:
https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/oxmedelectives/.
You will be able to select your preferred speciality from the list available.
3. **References**. You will be asked for 2 referees who must have taught you at your current medical school. They will be then requested via email to send a reference. The deadline for this reference is the same as the application submission dealine.
4. **Mandatory documents** A CV, transcript of your grades throughout medical school, and a completed Letter of Good Standing completed by your medical school Dean. The template for this can be found here:
<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/files/study/letter-of-good-standing-template>.



Timeline

The deadline for placements in September 2026-August 2027 has closed.

The next application cycle for electives in September 2027-August 2028 will open in
November 2026



Visa application

In order to enter into the country for the duration of the elective, a short-stay visa will have to be acquired.

What are the conditions of the Visitor route for study?

You must be a genuine visitor meaning that you must not use the route to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits or make the UK your main home, and that you will leave the UK at the end of your visit.

A decision maker (a visa application caseworker or Border Control staff) will be looking at the pattern and duration of your time spent in the UK, and if they decide this indicates you are in effect living in the UK for your course they could refuse you a further visa or admission as a visitor.

You are not allowed to be employed, do work for anybody or any organisation, do an internship or a work placement or engage in business or provide services as a consultant or freelancer while in the UK as a visitor.

You need to have enough money for your living expenses including accommodation, travel, course fees and any other expenses related to your visit.

You need a letter from the course administrator or your Oxford department about the study you are coming for, including the course name, duration and the amount of any fees. You also need written confirmation from your home medical school that this elective will be relevant to your degree course.



Visa application

Do you need to apply for a visitor visa?

Depending on your nationality you will either need to apply for a visitor visa before travelling to the UK or you will be able to enter the UK as a visitor without a visa.

You can **check if you need a visa** on the Home Office website. Select your nationality then choose the following options:

- 'study', then
- 'six months or less'

If you need a visitor visa, apply online. You can apply in any country outside the UK. You will need to submit your Study Visitor letter from Oxford, a letter from your home university, and evidence of your funding with your visit visa application. You will need to attend an appointment to give biometrics.

Financial and accommodation evidence

You need to be able to show you have enough money for all the costs of your visit including travel, accommodation and living expenses and any course fees. Evidence could include recent bank statements and a letter from an employer. If your study will be supported by a financial reward, use an official letter from the provider. Somebody else can fund your study if you have a personal or professional relationship with them, for example a close family member or an employer. They would need to be able to support you for the duration of your stay. Read the Home Office staff visit guidance for full information on how your funding may be assessed.

You need to be able to afford accommodation for the duration of your stay. If you have already arranged accommodation, include evidence of this with your visa application or have it to hand if you will be arriving without a visa. More information on finding accommodation can be found in our '**Accommodation at Oxford**' booklet.



Visa application

Arrival in the UK

If you don't need to apply for a visa before travelling to the UK as a Visitor for study, you will need to be prepared to explain the purpose of your visit when you arrive. As well as your passport you will need:

- your letter from Oxford with details of your study or period of research and a letter from your home university if your visit is part of or relevant to your course there
- financial and accommodation evidence

Unless you are eligible to use the ePassport gate, you will be stamped in as a visitor, normally for six months.



The OxPal Exeter-Palestine Medical Elective Scholarship

Exeter College, in partnership with OxPal, is proud to offer a dedicated scholarship to support one Palestinian medical student each year to undertake a clinical elective at the University of Oxford.

Overview of support:

For the 2027 elective period (July–August 2027), the scholarship covers:

- **Accommodation:** A room provided by Exeter College (likely at Exeter House, near the Oxford University Hospitals) for the duration of the 4- to 10-week elective.
- **Travel:** One return flight (estimated between £300–£575).
- **Fees:** The £50 application fee and the £151 visa application fee.
- **Living Expenses:** £200 per week of elective to cover food, personal items, and social activities during your stay.



Applying for the OxPal Exeter-Palestine Medical Elective Scholarship

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a registered final or penultimate year clinical medical student at an accredited university institution in Gaza or the West Bank.
- Have already been accepted by to take part in the Oxford MSD elective scheme for the relevant year.
- Demonstrate a strong academic background, a desire to improve healthcare outcomes in their community, and the ambition to capitalise on opportunities during the elective.

Application

- Following application and successful acceptance to the Oxford MSD elective programme eligible students should apply to Exeter between **1 March and 31 December** for electives taking place in July or August the following year.
- **The application outcome** will be managed by Exeter College medical Fellows and decided by **31 January**.

Submission requirements

Applicants must provide a CV and answer the following three questions (maximum **500 words** per question):

- Why would you like to do an elective in Oxford?
- What are you hoping to achieve during your time on elective?
- Why are you interested in the specialty you have chosen?

To apply, please email [**academic.office@exeter.ox.ac.uk**](mailto:academic.office@exeter.ox.ac.uk).



Further information

Oxford Medical Sciences Division electives page:
<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/electives>

OxPal Exeter-Palestine Medical Elective Scholarship page:
<https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/the-oxpal-exeter-palestine-medical-elective-scholarship/>



