

# OXFORD FUTURE OF CITIES SUMMER COURSE

## ‘Global Challenges and the Future of Humanity’



**MONDAY 19 JULY - WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2021**

**Keywords: Global Challenges, Future of Humanity, Environment and Climate Change, Global Economic Governance, Global Ethics, International Stability, Public Health and Society, Disruptive and Emerging Technologies, Urbanisation**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

The 'Global leadership for the Future of Humanity' short course is designed to equip talented university students and professionals aspiring to leadership positions with a critical understanding of the key global challenges shaping the future of humanity and with relevant skills and experience to help tackle these challenges. The challenges include environmental and climate change, public health, global economy, international relations, ethics, the impact of disruptive and emerging technologies, and urbanisation.

This course is part of the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities short courses. No matter where they are, cities face mounting and compounded challenges unlike ever before. The Covid-19 pandemic has ushered in a disruptive series of public health, economic, social, and political crises, while a growing number of cities are threatened by intensifying global risks, such as climate disasters, ethnic and racial tensions, cultural disintegration, conflicts, and depleting resources. The need to train leaders in tackling these challenges for the viability of our urban future and global peace, stability and prosperity has never been more pressing. The short courses are designed just for that, offering expertise mainly from the University of Oxford but also from other leading research institutions, government and international organisations, businesses, and industries in the key areas of sustainable urban development to make cities flexible, healthy, inclusive, resilient, and vibrant in response to evolving challenges and circumstances, in line with **the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**. These areas include governance and policy, design and planning, technology and innovation, business and economics, and social and cultural development. Starting in 2016, the courses have now expanded to cover the wider cultural, economic, historical, geo-political, social, scientific, and technological contexts within which sustainable urban development could be achieved.



Leading experts from relevant research fields at the University of Oxford and other top research institutions in the UK will help attendees learn to critically assess these challenges from a historical, interdisciplinary, and global perspective through interactive lectures.

The course also helps attendees develop important leadership skills, including research, communication, cross-cultural, project management, and problem-solving skills. Outstanding young scholars and professionals will share their experiences. As an integral part of the course, attendees will be guided by supervisors in working on research and practice-based projects to learn to help tackle relevant global challenges and make



contributions to sustainable urban development.

All the attendees who successfully complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion from the [University of Oxford Network for the Future of Cities](#) together with the course module sheet which attendees may use to apply for academic credits at their home institutions. For high performing attendees of the course, the course management staff may provide references. The courses have contributed to the success of our course alumni's applications for relevant postgraduate degree courses at the world's leading institutions and for relevant internships and jobs at government institutions, NGOs, and business



and industrial organisations in countries and regions such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Europe, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, UK, and US.

The University of Oxford Network for the Future of Cities, which is devoted to creating world-class research addressing key challenges in urban development by bringing together global perspectives and relevant expertise across the University of Oxford and beyond, co-hosts the course in collaboration with two Oxford-based organisations devoted to sustainable urban development: Summit Education Enterprise and Oxford Sustainable Enterprise.

## COURSE TIMETABLE - WEEK ONE

Date/Time	Monday 19 July	Tuesday 20 July	Wednesday 21 July	Thursday 22 July	Friday 23 July
Topic	Orientation Opening Lecture	Global Economic Governance	Public Health and Society	International Stability	Global Ethics
9:00–10:15 UK (16:00–17:15 China)	Welcome Talk Getting to Know Each Other & Course Induction	Lecture: 'Global Governance in a Post-Covid World'	Lecture: 'Pandemic and Its Impact on Society: Insights from History'	Lecture: 'Global Turmoil and Stability in the Post-Covid World'	Lecture: 'Ethical Framework for Global Vaccine Distribution'
10:15–10:30 UK (17:15–17:30 China)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:30–11:15 UK (17:30–18:15 China)	Opening Lecture: 'Global Challenges and the Future of Humanity'	Sharing Session: Studying & Living in the UK	Sharing Session: Public Health/ Science & Technology/ Environmental Science	Sharing Session: Business/ Economics/ Finance/ Social Sciences	Skills Workshop: Public Speaking & Debating
11:15–12:15 UK (18:15–19:15 China)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:15–13:00 UK (19:15–20:00 China)	Project Workshop: Introduction to the Group Project	Skills Workshop: Research and Academic Writing I	Project Management	Project Proposal Presentation	Skills Workshop: Public Speaking & Debating
13:00–14:00 UK (20:00–21:00 China)	Virtual Oxford Tour	Group Project Time	Group Project Time	Group Project Time	Group Project Time
14:00 UK (21:00 China)	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest

## WEEK TWO

Date/Time	Saturday 24 July	Sunday 25 July	Monday 26 July	Tuesday 27 July	Wednesday 28 July
Topic	Disruptive and Emerging Technologies	Urbanisation	Environment and Climate Change	Preparation for Final Reports	Final Day
9:00–10:15 UK (16:00–17:15 China)	Lecture: 'AI and Quantum Computing and the Future of Humanity'	Lecture: 'Urbanisation and the Future of Cities'	Lecture: 'Global Climate Action'	Group Project Time	Final Project Report Presentations & Assessment (Part I)
10:15–10:30 UK (17:15–17:30 China)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:30–11:15 UK (17:30–18:15 China)	Project Workshop: Project Progress Feedback	Sharing Session: Working with International Organisations	Project Workshop	Project Workshop: Group Project Presentation Rehearsal	Final Project Report Presentations & Assessment (Part II)
11:15–12:15 UK (18:15–19:15 China)	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:15–13:00 UK (19:15–20:00 China)	Skills Workshop: Academic Writing II	Project Workshop	Group Project Time	Group Project Time	Final Project Report Feedback and Evaluation
13:00–14:00 UK (20:00–21:00 China)	Group Social & Cultural Evening	Group Project Time	Group Project Time	Group Project Time	Course Review & Summary  Concluding Remarks
14:00 UK (21:00 China)	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Farewell



## Some of the Past and Present Teaching Faculty



**Professor David Clifton**

A graduate from the University of Oxford, Professor Clifton is Professor of Clinical Machine Learning at the Department of Engineering Science of the University of Oxford. He is a Research Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and one of the

directors of the Oxford Computational Health information Lab in Suzhou, China. His research focuses on the development of machine learning for tracking the health of complex systems. He holds a Grand Challenge award from the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which is an EPSRC Fellowship that provides long-term strategic support for “future leaders in healthcare”.



**Professor Andrew Goudie**

Professor Goudie was Professor of Geography and a Fellow of Hertford College, University of Oxford from 1984 to 2003. A distinguished physical geographer, he was awarded the DSc

by the University in 2002, a Royal Medal from the Royal Geographical Society in 1991, and the Prize of the Royal Belgian Academy for 2002. He was President of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, 2011-2016, and from September 2005-2009 he was President of the International Association of Geomorphologists.



**Professor Debbie Hopkins**

Professor Hopkins is an Associate Professor in Human Geography jointly appointed between the School of Geography and the

Environment, and the Sustainable Urban Development programme. Professor Hopkins has been part of several large research centres and grant applications. In addition, Professor Hopkins leads research on low-carbon transitions, labour and mobilities, largely in relation to freight/trucking and waste.



**Professor Emily Jones**

Professor Jones directs the Oxford Global Economic Governance Programme which fosters research and debate on how to make the global economy inclusive and sustainable.

Her research examines the political economy of global trade and finance, focusing on the ways in which governments can exert influence in asymmetric negotiations. She teaches courses on international political economy and negotiation strategy and skills for public policy, specialising in international trade.



**Professor Rana Mitter**

Professor Mitter is a Professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations and former Deutsche Bank Director of the Dickson Poon China Centre, University of Oxford. He was educated at King's College,

Cambridge, where he received both his MA and PhD. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA) in 2015, and was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II in the 2019 Birthday Honours for services to education.



**Professor Alex Rogers**

Professor Rogers is Professor of Computer Science and Tutorial Fellow at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. He develops and applies principled artificial intelligence, machine learning and agent-based approaches within physical sensor systems to

address real-world problems focusing on sustainability. His recent work has addressed future energy systems, such as the smart grid, citizen science platforms, and environmental monitoring, and typically involves the real-world deployment of novel approaches in devices, smartphones or the cloud.

# STUDENT FEEDBACK

'The lectures and sharing sessions of this project covered many fields other than politics and economy and described global challenges and the future of mankind, which gave me a new perspective on sustainable development and some crises in the post-epidemic era.'

X Chen, Zhejiang University

'Whether it is the wonderful lectures of the masters, the sharing moments between instructors and excellent fellow students, or the project creation of the whole group, all of these have left a deep impression on me, and I hope they will be helpful in the future.'

R Q Shen, Tianjin University

'The Oxford programme has shown me a vast new world, encouraged me to pursue my academic goals, and also brought me a lot of growth. It was the experience of a lifetime. Thank you for the dedication of every teacher!'

Y C Liu, Central South University



'Despite being an online course, the sharing of professors and scholars has taken me beyond the limitations of geography and time, and created a very stimulating learning experience.'

Y Lu, Tsinghua University



'This programme has not only strengthened and deepened my interdisciplinary thinking once again, but also greatly improved my communication ability and the ability to obtain and present information in English.'

Y Wu, UESTC

'Lectures on different topics every day enabled me to get in touch with knowledge of different majors and discuss topics related to the current situation, which enables me to view the post-epidemic era and the world deeply affected by the epidemic from the perspective of other disciplines.'

B Y Cai, UIBE

'Project teachers always encouraged students to express ideas, and to ask questions in a stimulating atmosphere. This let us think more actively and in the reflection period of every day, the teachers gave attention to each students and provided opportunities for growth.'

C J L, Peking University

*'I think this programme has been done very well, and the part about team project work and lecture are also very good, which have broadened my vision and improved my academic ability!'*

*D F Liang, Kunming University of Science and Technology*

*'My biggest gain from this course is that it has deepened my understanding of the University of Oxford. In the past, Oxford was more of a vague concept to me. In this course, the lectures given by prominent Oxford University academics not only broadened my horizons in knowledge and deepened my understanding of global governance issues in the fields of environment and economy, but also enabled me to have a personal understanding of the high academic level and broad academic vision of professors at the University of Oxford.'*

*Victor Jiang, Tsinghua University*



'What I learned in the whole program has already gone beyond the limited time we had. We learned about a wide range of relevant subjects together, and thought about the problems that humanity is facing. We were successful in leaving our comfort zones and achieved a more positive and effective academic exchange. We met excellent teachers and friends, worked together, and completed a project successfully. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers and students in this course. Their dedication and enthusiasm enabled me to participate in this profound exchange activity in such a special period.'

L D Dou, Zhejiang University



'I am very grateful for this project, which allowed me to acquire new knowledge, explore a new world, and meet a group of lovely people.'

T Y Fan, UIBE  
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## Eligible Applicants

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and young professionals from all relevant fields, including but not limited to following fields: Science and Technology, Humanities and Social sciences: e.g., AI, Computer and Data Science, Business & Economics, Ethics and Philosophy, Finance, (Geo- or Environmental) Engineering, Environmental and Climate Change Studies, International Relationship, Law, Politics, Public Health, Public Policy and Administration, Urban Design and Planning.

## Admissions Requirements

We welcome talented students from all over the world to apply to our online short courses. We also list below the suggested criteria for the successful participation in the course.

### 1. Academic Standing

We normally expect a GPA 3.0 out of the 4.0 scale grading scale or 80 out of the 100 grading scale at the minimum, though we do grant exceptions to applicants with special talents or special circumstances.

### 2. English Language Ability

We normally expect applicants to have achieved and provide proof for one of the following English language proficiency test results:

**IELTS:** minimum 6.0 for overall average and each area

**TOEFL:** minimum 85 for the overall score (listening section: minimum 20)

**College English Test (CET)-4:** minimum 530 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only)

**College English Test (CET)-6:** minimum 510 (applicable to Chinese university applicants only)

\*For those applicants who have not taken the above tests by the time of application, their English proficiency needs to be assessed by our Admissions Team



via online oral interview and may also be assessed by their home institutions.

\*The requirement for proof of English proficiency can be waived for applicants whose first language is English, those whose first language is not English but have successfully completed a full-time degree-level academic programme at a university where English is the language of instruction, or those who have extensive experience working in a professional English-speaking environment.

3. Strong intellectual curiosity, a strong sense of social responsibility often evidenced by extra-curricular engagement, volunteering, internship, or work experience relevant to the core themes of this course.

4. Strong interest in global leadership, economic and social development, business and management, public health, policy and governance, sustainable (urban) development, and environmental and climatic change studies.

5. Ability and initiative to interact with teaching faculty and students in the UK.

6. Ability to work with a team on a group project.

7. Preference will be given to those intending to pursue postgraduate study in the UK.

Apart from completing the online applications form, applicants are welcome to submit the following documents in support of their applications:

- Academic records and transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae

The Admissions team will consider each applicant's overall qualifications, relevant experience, and the ability to interact with teaching faculty at Oxford when making a decision concerning admissions.

## Course Fee

- **£1550 per student**
- **£1950 per professional**

## How to Apply

Please complete the following tasks on the course application portal (please [click here](#)) before the **application deadline 30 June 2021**.

\* *Early Bird Discount: we grant £100 discount for applicants who submit their applications before 31 May 2021.*

\* *An additional £150 discount will apply to applicants who sign up for a second course offered through the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities.*

\* *A certain level of scholarship is available to applicants with strong academic or professional profiles.*

1. Fill out the online application form.

\*Please be aware that applicants may need to go through the internal assessment or selection process for this course at their own universities first.

2. Upload a digital passport-size photo and supplementary supporting documents.

\*For those applicants who have not taken the above tests by the time of application, their English proficiency needs to be assessed by the Admissions Team via online oral interview (or by the applicants' home institutions). Please view the above relevant notes for those who may be exempt from the requirement of proof of English proficiency.

## After Receiving your Application...

1. The Admissions Team aims to notify the applicant of the admissions decision within five working days upon receipt of the application package.

\*The applicant will also be notified if an online oral interview is required before the Admissions Team makes the final decision.

2. Those who have been accepted onto the course will need to pay the entire course fee within five working days after having been admitted onto the Course. Information about payment methods will be provided with the Official Letter of Acceptance.

3. The Admissions Team, upon receiving the payment of the course fee, will issue a confirmation email together with instructions on how to prepare for the Course prior to its commencement.





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## Contact Information

For any enquiries, please visit the following website, WeChat account, or WeChat platform.

Website: [www.futureofcities.ox.ac.uk/short-courses](http://www.futureofcities.ox.ac.uk/short-courses)

WeChat: summit-oxford



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