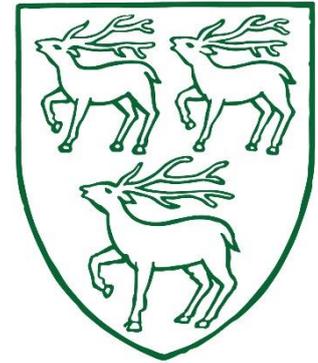


# SEREN



## Seren-Jesus College Oxford Summer Schools 2022 Applications

Information for prospective applicants



Hello! We're delighted you're thinking about applying for one of our summer schools for 2022! We've put together this guide to explain the application process and help you understand what to expect if you are offered a place. The information that follows provides an overview of each programme; finer details are still to be determined and successful applicants will receive more information nearer the time. You will find information for both programmes: the [Seren International Online Summer School](#) and the [Residential Jesus College Summer School](#).

## What is it all about?

The summer schools are for current Year 12 Seren Academy students attending a state school or college that participates in the Seren programme. Both summer schools are designed to inform, equip and increase progression of academically talented individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in Wales to Oxford and other competitive universities. In order to ensure these summer schools are available to as many people as possible, you can only apply for one programme, so please consider carefully which option you think will be best for you.

### Seren International Online Summer School

The [Seren International Online Summer School](#) will be subject-focussed, with scenario-based projects that can be presented to experts in the Welsh Government. The overarching theme will be "Make a Change". Details and project scopes are still to be defined but will cover the following four areas:

<b>Subject Streams</b>	<b>Project</b>
Humanities	<p>Develop a new word or phrase that promotes inclusion. Use your neologism in a piece of writing. This could be a short essay, or a piece of creative writing such as a poem.</p> <p>Languages have been developed and used to bring desperate individuals together, but at the same time has been a tool for dividing humanity in the Tower of Babel's shadow. Can we use language to bridge these divides?</p> <p>We will have lectures and seminars including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— On the history of hope, from Pandora's box to Barack Obama.</li> <li>— On the past development of words as weapons to divide and exclude.</li> <li>— On the greatest speeches and novels that have brought people together.</li> </ul>

<p>Maths, physics and life sciences</p>	<p>Describe how a social or medical problem could be tackled with applied maths, physics or engineering.</p> <p>Maths, physics, and the life sciences have long been essential to problem-solving in areas as diverse as public health, and even social inclusion. Where do you think further improvements can be made, or entirely new ideas forged?</p> <p>We will have lectures and seminars including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The uses and abuses of maths and physics in the Manhattan Project.</li> <li>— The cutting edge of biomedical engineering.</li> <li>— Mathematical modelling of disease.</li> <li>— Using computer science to map the genome and proteome.</li> </ul>
<p>Medicine and biomedical sciences</p>	<p>Describe a non-pharmaceutical intervention to improve public health.</p> <p>During the pandemic, several non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPIs) were adopted to save lives (such as mask wearing and social distancing). Could you propose some NPIs that will improve lives and not merely save them? Of course there is better eating, sleeping and so on, but we need to be creative because aspects of public health are deteriorating in our ageing society.</p> <p>We will have lectures and seminars including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The biochemistry and psychology of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> <li>— The organisation and operation of public health bodies.</li> <li>— The uses of new surgical interventions.</li> <li>— Biotech, and wearable tech.</li> <li>— Micro-dosing of chemical substances as mental health treatments.</li> </ul>
<p>Social sciences and law</p>	<p>Describe and advocate for a new right or set of rights for the UK.</p> <p>The set of rights that we use in the UK date back to the Second World War. Do these need an update and an upgrade? Are there people that are currently under protected or entirely unprotected from powerful forces? Or, do rights inhibit the will of democratically elected majorities?</p> <p>We will have lectures and seminars including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The history of human and civil rights, from Hammurabi to the Hague.</li> <li>— The economics of rights. Does might lead to rights?</li> <li>— The domestic and international politics of protection.</li> </ul>

Delegates will attend online lectures, seminars and an optional tutorial<sup>1</sup> centred around their chosen subject stream. There will also be plenty of advice and guidance about applying to and studying at top universities. There are many other fun sessions too: last year's participants attended 'morning motivation' and 'energiser' sessions, were encouraged to explore universities with the 'spotlight on...' sessions, joined virtual tours, and demonstrated their general knowledge with a fun quiz!

### Residential Jesus College Summer School

Unlike the Oxford UNIQ residential schools, the [Residential Jesus College Summer School](#) is inter-disciplinary and skills focused. Although this may take you out of your comfort zone academically, we want to expose students to a wide range of available subjects. We encourage delegates to embrace and explore how different disciplines interact and support each other in the pursuit of knowledge and discovery! The theme for 2022 is "The Cutting Edge", including the cutting edge in surgery, cutting carbon with tech, advances in quantum computing, and narrative techniques that can be cutting. Delegates will attend lectures and seminars covering a variety of subject areas. They will also write a short essay to discuss during a tutorial session in the week (see *what work is involved* below for further details). Other activities include university application workshops, a debate session, museum visits, an evening celebration dinner and plenty of opportunities to explore Oxford!

You can find recordings of several lectures and seminars from the 2020 and 2021 summer schools on our [YouTube Channel](#).

## Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply for the Seren-Jesus summer schools, you **MUST** be a current year 12 Seren Academy student attending a state school or college that participates in the Seren programme.

## How do I apply?

You must apply online via our application form here:

<https://ams.jesus.ox.ac.uk/Forms/url/SerenSS2022>

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<sup>1</sup> A 'tutorial' is a core teaching method at Oxford in addition to lectures and seminars. Tutorials are small group discussions, typically with 3-4 students, in which you discuss your work (e.g. an essay or problem sheet) with a tutor in that field. In contrast to a lecture, which is usually more passive, a tutorial is very much about actively discussing and debating with a group and sharing ideas and thoughts on an academic issue.

All elements of the application are submitted via this form. We suggest you read the form carefully and prepare everything you need well in advance. Any submission attempts via other means such as email will not be accepted.

#### Application deadline

The deadline for submitting your application is 12 NOON on Friday 28 January 2022. We strongly recommend you **DO NOT** leave submission until the last minute! The application form will close at 12:00 sharp and late submission will not be accepted.

We aim to notify every applicant of the outcome on Friday 29 April 2022. Applicants will be notified if we expect any delays to this date.

#### Personal statement and essay

You will need to provide a short personal statement and essay (500 words each) as part of the application process – instructions for this are in the application form. The essay and personal statement must be entered into the application form where indicated. Applications are assessed anonymously so please do not include your name or any identifying information within your personal statement or essay text.

We do not offer individual guidance on your personal statement and essay, however, you may find these films on our You Tube channel interesting and helpful: [How to PREP & WRITE an AWESOME personal statement!!](#); [Oxford Uni Essay Writing Workshop!!](#); [a REAL OXFORD tutorial on ESSAY WRITING!!](#).

Please note the following:

- **Anonymity:** Applications are assessed anonymously, so please do not include your name or any identifying information in your personal statement or essay text.
- **Formatting:** The essay and personal statement should be text only – **DO NOT TRY TO INCLUDE PHOTOS, ETC.** Do not worry if the layout of your personal statement or essay doesn't remain when pasted into the appropriate section of the application form. The application will come through our side in a fixed format so the layout isn't important.
- **Referencing:** A reference list/bibliography is not essential and is not included in the word-count. You are welcome to include one but it will not influence how your essay or personal statement is marked.
- **Word count:** there is a 500 maximum word limit each for the essay and the personal statement. Please do not go over this. It is not unusual for universities to mark down or cap the mark of submitted work that goes over the word limit. We will take your word count into consideration when assessing your application, so look at this as a useful exercise for the future!

### Include a referee

Within the application form, you will need to provide contact details of a referee (e.g. your teacher or Seren hub lead) who can offer a brief reference in support of your application. Make sure you ask them first and advise them that they do not need to do anything yet. We will be in touch with them after applications close with instructions on how we would like them to submit the reference.

### Is there a cost to participate?

Both Summer Schools are entirely FREE. For the [Residential](#) programme, accommodation and meals are provided and we will reimburse the delegate's reasonable travel costs to and from Wales. More guidance and T&Cs for this will be provided to final delegates.

### When will I need to be there?

The [Seren International Online Summer School](#) runs from Monday 18 July – Friday 29 July 2022. The timetable will run Monday-Friday and activities are expected to take place between 9AM-6PM. We understand that two-weeks is a long time to dedicate to such a programme and that you may have work, caring and other personal responsibilities or needs to consider. We encourage successful applicants to attend as much of the programme as possible, however, flexibility with attendance will be allowed. Further guidance and a timetable will be sent to delegates nearer the time.

The [Residential Jesus College Summer School](#) programme runs from Monday 15 – Friday 19 August 2022. The programme will start at approx. 1:30PM on the Monday and ends at around 12:30PM on the Friday. Delegates are expected to attend for the whole programme. Final delegates will be provided with further guidance and a schedule nearer the time of the event.

### What is the schedule like?

Busy but enjoyable! As outlined above, delegates will attend a variety of activities and academic sessions for their respective programme. However, not all sessions are compulsory and there will be breaks during the day. There will be some work expected of you, but this will be entirely manageable – see below.

## What resources will I need?

For the [Seren International Online Summer School](#), you will require internet access and a web-enabled device that enables you to participate in online activities using video conferencing tools and other web-based platforms. Full instructions and support for additional needs will be provided to delegates nearer the time.

For the [Residential Jesus College Summer School](#), you will need to bring usual provisions for a 4-night stay. Meals and accommodation will be provided and reasonable adjustments can be made for individual requirements relating to dietary, health, and learning needs. Delegates are contacted in advance with instructions and to discuss support for additional needs.

## If I'm offered a place, what work is involved?

For the [Seren International Online Summer School](#), you will produce a project report (of around 2000 words) for your chosen subject stream. The academic sessions you attend will help expand and develop your critical thinking and analytical skills needed for this. There will also be support with developing your project throughout the programme.

For the [Residential Jesus College Summer School](#), delegates will be tasked with writing a short essay in preparation for the programme. This is an important requirement of attendance because your essay will form the basis of the tutorial session. However, **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THIS!** We'll provide you with guidance and advice to help you.

## Can my parent/carer attend?

The summer schools are for delegates only. For those on the residential programme, parents/carers are welcome to escort delegates to Jesus College at the start and/or meet them at the College when the programme finishes. Please note that only travel costs for the delegate will be covered.

## Contact Details

If you have any questions about the summer schools, please do get in touch. Contact details are:

Dr Matt Williams, Access Fellow, E: [matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.williams@jesus.ox.ac.uk).

Ms Shelley Knowles, Access & Admissions Assistant, E: [shelley.knowles@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:shelley.knowles@jesus.ox.ac.uk).