Pembroke Program

Pembroke College, Oxford

Oxford, with its origins in the 12th century, is the oldest British university and has for centuries been an internationally renowned centre of learning.

From the early days of the University, Broadgates Hall, from which Pembroke College was founded, existed as a hostel for law students. In 1624 King James I signed the letters patent to create the present college, which was named after the third Earl of Pembroke.

Pembroke counts among its alumni Samuel Johnson, author of the Dictionary of the English Language; John Ronald Reuel (JRR) Tolkien, Anglo-Saxon scholar, author of The Lord of the Rings series, and member of the Inklings; J. William Fulbright, senator and sponsor of what was to become the Fulbright Program; and James Smithson, whose estate led to the creation of the Smithsonian Institute.

The college has just under 400 undergraduates, as well as around 30 Visiting Students, and about 100 graduate students.

Since fall of 1996, a select group of Illinois Wesleyan students has the opportunity to study for the year at Pembroke College, Oxford University, as part of the Pembroke Visiting Student Programme. Pembroke, with a total undergraduate enrolment of just over 400, accepts 40 visiting students annually from only 13 US colleges and universities: Illinois Wesleyan, Barnard, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, George Washington, Haverford, Penn, Tufts, and Vassar.

Students participating in the Pembroke Program experience the traditional Oxford tutorial system, in which students meet, individually or in groups of 2-4, once or twice weekly with individual faculty members. In these tutorial sessions, the focus is on independent study and writing, and students are expected to be self-motivating and self-directing. Students are also expected to supplement the work done in tutorials by regularly attending lectures.

Visiting students are fully integrated into the life of the college: students wear the traditional gowns, live in Pembroke College rooms, dine in hall, and have access to the full range of extracurricular clubs and societies.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Oxford Tutorial Method. The tutorial is a distinctive feature of undergraduate education at Oxford and makes a significant contribution to maintaining Oxford’s standard of excellence in teaching. In the tutorial system, students meet at least once a week with their college tutor, either on a one-to-one basis or with one or two other students. Tutorials are known for the close relationship they foster between the tutor and the student, but while this method of teaching provides students with individualized instruction, it also demands that students assume responsibility for their own learning.

While tutorials often form the backbone of teaching in Oxford, they are also supported by lectures which are conducted on a University-wide basis, college classes (often of groups of perhaps 10 students), and lab work in the sciences. Visiting Students at Pembroke have full rights to access all University facilities and attend lectures and libraries.

Courses for Visiting Students at Pembroke.

The emphasis in Oxford is to study one subject (or course) or a specific combination of courses in depth. Pembroke offers the following courses:

- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Economics & Management
- English Language & Literature
- English & Modern Languages (French, Italian)
- History
- History & Economics
- History & English
- History & Modern Languages
- History & Politics
- Law
- Mathematics
- Mathematics & Philosophy
- Modern Languages (French, Italian)
- Oriental Studies (Arabic, Islamic Studies)
- Oriental Studies (Japanese, Chinese)
- Philosophy
- Philosophy & Modern Languages
- Philosophy, Politics, & Economics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Psychology, Physiology & Philosophy
- Theology
HOUSING

Visiting students live in college in single rooms with shared bathrooms down the hall. Students may, for an additional cost, upgrade to a room with an en suite bathroom. Housing is available to the student during the Christmas and Easter vacations at a minimal cost.

Meals may be taken in hall and may include breakfast in The Pantry, self-serve lunches, and both formal and informal dinners.

ELIGIBILITY

- Declared major
- 3.7 minimum GPA
- Sophomore standing at time of application
- Cannot be on academic or social probation
- IWU account must not be in arrears

APPLICATION & DEADLINE

Students interested in applying to the Pembroke Program should make an appointment to speak with the Director of the International Office.

The application consists of an application form, a personal statement, two graded writing samples, and two academic letters of reference.

The deadline for the Pembroke Program is in early January.

For further information, please contact

Stacey Shimizu
International Office
Phone: (309) 556-1096
E-mail: abroad@iwu.edu

PEMBROKE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Participants: Approximately 40 visiting students from 13 US universities

Program Length: Junior year (late September–late June)

Academic Load: Two tutorials (full and half or two full) in each of the three terms for 9 IWU units.

Academic Calendar

Michaelmas Term: early October–early December
Hilary Term: mid-January–mid-March
Trinity Term: late April–late June to mid-July

Housing: Single-occupancy room in college with shared bathrooms.

Cost: Changes annually. See the International Office.

Included in these costs are:
- Tuition for equivalent of 9 IWU units of credit
- Housing
- Predeparture and onsite orientations
- Full participation in all College activities

Not included:
- Airfare
- Meals
- Personal expenses

Application Schedule

1. Set up an appointment with the Director of the International Office to discuss study abroad and the Pembroke Program.

2. Complete the Pembroke Visiting Student application by early January.