



UNC  
GLOBAL

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**STUDY ABROAD OFFICE**

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-Chapel Hill

Dear Colleagues:

**Mansfield College: University of Oxford**

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish a study abroad agreement with Mansfield College, University of Oxford. Information about Mansfield College can be reviewed at:

<http://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/>

The University of Oxford is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings for 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Sunday Times University Guide for UK universities for 2010.

UNC-Chapel Hill students currently have an opportunity to enroll at Mansfield College via a third-party provider (Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University) and the Study Abroad Office has sent a small number of students via this route in recent years. However, Mansfield College itself now manages a Registered Visiting Student Program and encourages US universities to establish direct relations to facilitate student enrollment at Mansfield College and, where mutually advantageous, wider academic collaboration and exchange. In this respect, it is relevant to note that Dr Robert Adams (Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Philosophy) is currently a Senior Research Fellow of Mansfield College. This letter requests approval for a direct enrollment arrangement.

Mansfield College was founded in 1886 under Royal Charter. While its original role was to train ministers for the Nonconformist, mainly Congregational, churches, it now provides a largely secular academic environment and admits students from all over the world to read for undergraduate and graduate degrees of Oxford University. All students are admitted without regard to religious affiliation. The current total enrollment at Mansfield College is approximately 320 students.

Mansfield College also admits a small number of students from the USA for a full academic year as Registered Visiting Students. This formal status allows the admitted student to be fully integrated in the life of Mansfield College, studying via the tutorial system alongside degree-seeking students admitted to Mansfield College, and using the University of Oxford's many libraries (including the Bodleian Library) and lecture facilities. Registered Visiting Students are also provided with the same accommodation as that offered to degree-seeking students, either in a purpose-built dormitory or in student houses in Oxford. In essence, this status allows the US student to become a full undergraduate member of Mansfield College: like all other Colleges, Mansfield constitutes an independent academic and social community, providing accommodation, meals and social facilities, as well as a program of academic study. In essence, the only difference between a Registered Visiting Student and all other students is that the former are not awarded a degree by the University of Oxford.

Hence Registered Visiting Students are taught by means of the Oxford University tutorial system, a pedagogic process very different from that which prevails on most US university and college campuses (and indeed on most UK university campuses). The pros and cons of this distinct system will be made clear to students during advising sessions (as is done already for students who enquire about studying at Oxford University via the Institute for Study Abroad). At the present time, Mansfield College allows Registered Visiting Students to select tutorials from the following subject areas: Economics, English Language and Literature, Geography, Modern History, Philosophy, Politics and Theology. We anticipate that UNC-Chapel Hill students from the corresponding majors here will find this opportunity attractive. And we are especially confident that Philosophy majors and those taking the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) minor will find it particularly attractive.

The Registered Visiting Student Program is managed by a person appointed formally as Tutor for the Program (currently Dr Carolyn Morningstar). The Tutor supervises the day-to-day running of the academic side of the Program. In addition to making the initial tutorial arrangements, the Tutor is available through the academic year for consultation on any academic matter. The Tutor also oversees the issuing of transcripts and serves as the main link with the US universities and colleges that have direct relationships with Mansfield College to facilitate the Registered Visiting Student Program.

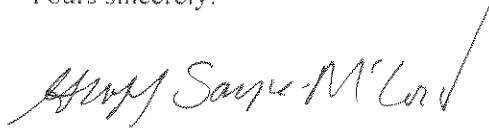
Oxford University continues to function on a 'three term' system, Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Registered Visiting Students at Mansfield College are required to enroll in one primary and one secondary tutorial each term (a total of six tutorials for the academic year). At the end of the academic year, the College issues a transcript that details the courses/tutorials taken, and a letter grade for each. The letter grade will take the form usual at Oxford University, the Greek letter system (ranging from Alpha to Gamma++). In awarding grades, Mansfield College faculty are required to provide an assessment that relates the visiting student's performance to that expected of a matriculated degree student. The College also recommends a conversion table that relates the Oxford Greek-letter grade to its approximate equivalent under the US system of grading. UNC-Chapel Hill students will receive transfer (and not graded) credit.

For UNC-Chapel Hill students, a minimum GPA of 3.6 is required in order to apply. Mansfield College is seeking in particular students who demonstrate exceptional academic talent, emotional


maturity and intellectual curiosity Students must be either juniors or seniors during their year of study at Mansfield College.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Geoffrey Sayre-McCord  
Morehead Alumni Distinguished Professor  
and Chair of Philosophy



Dr. Robert Miles  
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges