

Studying in the Oxbridge

Thinking about British education the first things you have connected with one are the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Those almost the oldest academic institutions on the globe positioned among ten best world universities are famous because of the rivalry between its students and top social positions of its graduates.



University of Oxford

The rise of an intellectual power

Educational practises in place of modern Oxford University started at the end of 11th century, however the university was legally established in 1157 to educate lawyers, doctors and reverends to fulfill the gap for well-educated royal authorities. The University was divided into colleges to help students in accomodation, education and taking care of their wealth. Each one was governed by a master who was looking after his students (young, rich men) and such collegiate system has remained till now as one of the features of this institution. The whole university has been governed by an independent Chancellor with a viable power not only in the academic world. Half a century later, after a dispute with town authorities a group of academics from Oxon (unofficial name) moved to a newly founded University of Cambridge positioned a few kilometers away with simmilar internal organisation. That was the beginning of the mutual rivalry and cooperation among the Oxbridge members which is the name for the greatest academic institutions of Europe, which are independent both from each other, even they are usually described together, and the authorities,.

Society of graduates and students

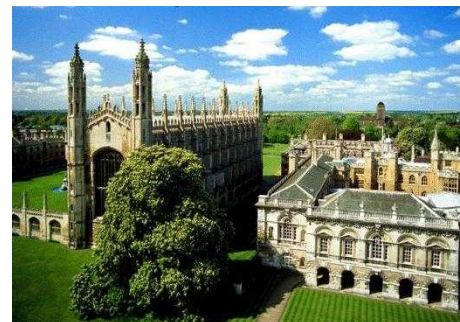
Modern Oxbridge is famous of its almost millennial history and the annual canoe race between Oxford and Cambridge (last year one of the representants was a Pole), while the level of participants is estimated on top places of the Olympic Games. When you think about five most famous and significant Britishmen who appears in political or social life, you may be sure that at least two of them will be Oxbridge graduates. During the ages universities educated almost a hundred Nobel Prize winners, the majority of UK Prime Ministers (Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair), monarchs and presidents all over the world (Bill Clinton, Indira Gandhi, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Prince Charles Windsor, Oliver Cromwell), saints (Thomas Morus), religious reformers (John Wesley), scientists (Niels Bohr, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Ernest Rutherford), writers (John R.R. Tolkien, Alan A. Milne), businessmen (Rupert Murdoch), actors (Hugh Grant, John Cleese) or Polish politics (Radoslaw Sikorski, Maciej Giertych). Undeniable fame and respect that has been given to the Universities and their graduates results in a worldwide prestige.

Oxbridge facts and myths

What is interesting, Oxford's 400-year-old library includes 117 miles of shelves with 8 million volumes consisting of Gutenberg's Bible and Shakespeare's handwriting and those are only a small amount of Oxbridge's treasures. Universities includes a few museums (eg. Ashmolean Museum, the oldest museum in the UK) which may boast with masters' paintings (Da Vinci, Picasso), antique artifacts, skeleton of Tyrannosaurus rex and triceratops, complete remains of dodo, King Alfred's Jewels which all are priceless stuff for the human civilisation. To its real value, the sum of \$210million donated to Cambridge by Bill Gates on a computer laboratory seems to be a childish fund. The Botanic Garden of Oxford is the third-oldest scientific garden in the world and contains representatives from over 90% of the world's higher plant families, while Cambridge University Press is the oldest publisher on Earth.

The Universities has appeared in approximately a thousand novels. In the Cambridge Queen's College there's a Mathematical Bridge which was built without any screws or nails and the construction is said to be built by Isaac Newton. This particular note, however, is rather supposed to be a fiction as the

bridge was constructed 22 years after Newton's death. Another college in Cambridge – Trinity is the most significant one in Oxbridge and is the fourth wealthiest landowner in Britain after Monarchy, Treasury and the Church of England. Even neither Oxford nor Cambridge is situated on the place provided for the best university (the one is Harvard, USA), its first manager and schoolmaster both graduated from Cambridge.



University of Cambridge

Why and how to study at Oxbridge

Universities provide a range of facilites of varied kinds like sport, choir, biotechnology, philisophy, business etc. getting the world top level in each of them. Attending those classes, you don't learn more about the subject, you learn absolutely much more about one and your knowledge will become perfect and undeniably complete. That is why Oxford or Cambridge are educational dreams of an uncountable number of students all over the world. At the moment, nearly half of them are foreigners from 130 countries. And how to join the group of more than 40,000 students in both of them? It's very diffucult and except form perfect English skills, paying quite high funds and having top results of previously passed classes and exams they should have special achievements. Don't worry, there are also some students' exchanges. What you can get, however, is a top educational level, perpetual satisfaction and an astonishing pride of attending the most famous academic institution, no difference whether it's Oxford or Cambridge.

Wojciech Bańczyk

Accomodation – zamieszkanie

Viable – realny

Mutual – wzajemny

Undeniable – niezaprzeczalny

Stuff – przedmioty

Fund – stypendium, pomoc finansowa

Approximately – około

Landowner – właściciel ziemski

Graduate from - ukończyć