



British Studies At Oxford **2010**

Academic and Social Policies

High standards of academic and social conduct are essential to participation in *British Studies At Oxford (BSAO)*. Over the 40 years of the program's existence its students have established an enviable reputation for taking their studies seriously and behaving with civilized sophistication. All concerned in the administration of *BSAO* are ruthlessly determined to maintain that reputation.

Occasionally, participants behave in ways that undermine the program. **This document is designed to leave you in absolutely no doubt as to the standards of academic and social conduct expected and also of the consequences of any and all breaches of those standards.** Students are reminded of the conditions for acceptance set out on the last page of the application form and signed by each participant. The judgment of the Dean of *BSAO* is absolute and final in the event of any dispute, offense, or grievance.

Should a participant become unwelcome to St. John's College or should some other breach of good conduct warrant it, the Dean may expel the person and require departure from the College precincts. In such an instance, a *pro rata* refund of board only will be made.

WE URGE YOU, AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE, TO READ THROUGH AND UNDERSTAND THESE POLICIES AND TO ENSURE THAT YOUR PARENTS OR OTHERS CONNECTED WITH YOU ARE FULLY APPRISED OF THEIR CONTENTS.

SHOULD A BREACH OF THE STATED POLICIES OF *BSAO* OCCUR AND A PARTICIPANT BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM, NO NEGOTIATIONS FOR SECOND-CHANCES OR CLEMENCY WILL BE ENTERED INTO WITH PARENTS OR OTHERS.

PART 1

Academic Policies

1 Credits and their transfer

British Studies At Oxford (BSAO) is offered by Rhodes College, in affiliation with The Associated Colleges of the South. All its courses have been approved by the relevant authorities at Rhodes College and comply with the standards for academic credit at that institution. Credit earned by students attending *BSAO* will be recorded in the Registrar's Office of Rhodes College.

On arrival in Oxford, all participants not enrolled at Rhodes College must complete a Transcript Request Form.

Credit and grades for all *BSAO* courses are reported to the Registrar's Office at Rhodes College. Courses cannot be taken Pass/Fail.

The transfer of Rhodes College course credits earned on *BSAO* is treated in the same way as other credits earned at Rhodes; in the case of some member institutions of the Associated Colleges of the South, credit may be regarded as though it were earned at the home institution. The acceptance of transfer credits is at the discretion of the receiving institution. Students not currently enrolled at Rhodes College should check **IN ADVANCE** with their home institution to ensure they understand how credits earned on *BSAO* will be regarded. Those seeking graduate credit must request an evaluation of their work by the appropriate authority in their parent institutions.

2 Requirements for satisfactory completion of courses

In order to complete satisfactorily the program offered by *BSAO*, the student is required to attend all the morning lectures, the required study excursions, and all seminar meetings in the areas elected, to complete all reading assignments, and to perform satisfactorily in examinations and other assessed work. **Approval of the program for credit is based upon your attending all lectures, seminars, and required excursions.** Records of attendance are kept for all these activities and unexcused absences will be used when assigning grades and determining whether the course of studies has been pursued successfully.

Performance will be graded A (the highest grade), B, C, D (plus and minus), and F. For students pursuing graduate credit, a grade of B represents the minimum satisfactory mark.

3 Consequences of unsatisfactory academic conduct

BSAO is an academic program, requiring sustained and committed study from its participants. You must not allow your social activities or travel plans to have a negative impact on your studies. If your professors become concerned at your progress or engagement with the academic program, they will discuss your situation with the Dean to assess the likelihood of your successful completion of the program and in extreme circumstances your continued participation. *BSAO* is brief and intense: there is little scope for second chances or recovery from missteps.

4 Honesty

BSAO requires honest behavior of all participants. Students must scrupulously avoid any action that might be construed as cheating, stealing, or lying in official matters. Plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in failing grades and will be reported fully to the home institution for further action according to its policies. In 2005 a student cheated, was failed, was reported, and received a two-semester suspension from the home institution.

5 The intersection of academic and social conduct

Social conduct has a clear impact on academic performance. It is tempting when in a strange and exciting city to lose a sense of proper balance. We remind you that academic study is your primary responsibility while participating in *BSAO*.

You are expected to organize your time and activities so that you are well rested and thoroughly prepared for each day of classes. Your professors will report to the Dean if they conclude that this is not the case. The Dean may then be forced to the conclusion that you are not a genuine participant in *BSAO* and require you to leave.

You are expected to confine extensive socializing to the weekends.

You are expected to confine late-night socializing, within or outside the College, to evenings when you have no classes, study excursions, or other academic activities the following day.

While in Oxford you must take responsibility for maintaining your own health: behave prudently, get plenty of rest, eat appropriately, and do not abuse alcohol.

You must not allow your desire to see the world to obstruct your studies. If traveling independently at the weekends, you are expected to be back in St John's College at a reasonable hour on Sunday evenings so that you are fully prepared for your classes on Monday and sufficiently rested to be able to participate actively and satisfactorily.

PART 2

Social Policies

All members of the *BSAO* summer school are expected to abide by its regulations and to conform to its high standards of social behavior. Students participating in *BSAO* over the years have created an excellent reputation for responsible and mature conduct. We expect you to maintain this reputation, for your own sake and for that of future generations of students.

Social conduct while a member of the program is governed in the main by the normal standards of good manners and civilized behavior, and we are confident that you know these. There are a few special obligations resulting from the circumstances of living in St. John's College.

We strongly recommend that you read the statements on British laws regarding alcohol abuse, drugs, criminal penalties made in the US State Department Consular Sheet for the United Kingdom. This forms the appendix to the *BSAO* Information Document for 2010.

1 Alcohol policy

When *BSAO* has encountered social problems, these have almost invariably been connected with the excessive consumption of alcohol.

EXCESSIVE DRINKING IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH PARTICIPATION IN *BSAO*.

WE ALERT PARTICIPANTS IN ADVANCE AND IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE PROGRAM OPERATES A "ZERO-TOLERANCE" POLICY WITH REGARD TO DRUNKENNESS AND BINGE OR EXCESSIVE DRINKING. WE STRESS THAT PUB

CRAWLS, "PUB GOLF", OR ANY OTHER COMPETITIVE DRINKING GAMES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THIS POLICY. THOSE DISCOVERED TO BE PARTICIPATING IN SUCH ACTIVITIES MUST EXPECT TO BE DISMISSED FROM THE PROGRAM.

In 2007 a participant in the program was dismissed and required to leave as a result of brazen disregard for this policy.

BSAO does not supply alcohol to students under any circumstances.

The minimum age for the purchase and consumption of alcohol in Great Britain is 18 as opposed to 21 in much of the USA. Despite the fact that you are legally entitled to purchase and consume alcohol in Great Britain, *BSAO* urges you to abstain from the consumption of alcohol. Participants in *BSAO* are expected to behave in a responsible and civilized manner if they choose to consume alcohol.

Alcohol abuse can have negative consequences such as poor grades, social conflicts, accidents and injuries, involvement in vandalism and other unlawful behavior, and diminished respect from peers and professors. It is your personal and individual duty to act responsibly at all times and particularly in the matter of the consumption of alcohol. Bear the following in mind:

- 1 Alcohol is not considered a central ingredient of *BSAO* activities;
- 2 Excessive use or misuse of alcohol is unacceptable;
- 3 *BSAO* encourages you to consider abstaining from alcohol altogether.

If you decide not to consume alcohol, be confident and firm about it. Remember, restaurants, pubs, etc., make greater profits from non-alcoholic drinks, so they will be only too pleased to supply them.

If you do decide to consume alcohol, do so responsibly. Don't drink on an empty stomach. Drink slowly and limit your intake to a sensible amount. Do not embarrass yourself or *BSAO*.

Oxford City Council has passed legislation making it an offence to carry open containers of alcohol in public places in the city center. Do not take glasses of beer, for instance, out onto the street.

Responsibility in the consumption of alcohol is the policy of *BSAO*. Failure to abide by this policy will result in penalties ranging from fines to expulsion from the program.

2 Drugs

The sale, distribution, use, or possession of a controlled drug or substance is illegal in Great Britain, and the British Police are stern in their application of the law. Any breach of the law by a participant in *BSAO* will result in expulsion from the program and a report being sent to your home institution.

BSAO will not tolerate the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance or the misuse of medications or other legal drugs. Such activity is criminal. It is a threat to the personal safety of all participants, and to the reputation and mission of the program.

The possession, use, sale or distribution of illegal drugs, the misuse or abuse of medications or other legal drugs is prohibited. Such conduct:

- 1 violates the law;
- 2 violates one's physical and mental health; and
- 3 violates the fabric of the community with serious security risks resulting in dealing with individuals operating outside the law.

All participants in *BSAO* are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable laws that make it a crime to possess, sell, deliver or manufacture those drugs considered to be “controlled substances”. Any participant in *BSAO* who violates the law is subject to both prosecution by British authorities and to disciplinary proceedings by *BSAO*. All participants in *BSAO* are subject to disciplinary action for the possession, manufacture, use, sale, or distribution (by either sale or gift) of any quantity of any prescription drug or controlled substance or for being under the influence of any prescription drug or controlled substance, except for the appropriate use of an over-the-counter medication or for the prescribed use of medication in accordance with the instructions of a licensed physician. Controlled substances include, but are not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, cocaine derivatives, heroin, amphetamines, barbiturates, LSD, PCP, and substances typically known as "designer drugs" such as "ecstasy". Possession of paraphernalia associated with the use, possession or manufacture of a prescription drug or controlled substance is also prohibited. All participants are also subject to disciplinary action for the misuse or abuse of non-controlled substances (e.g., Amylnitrate, Ephedrine, etc.).

3 Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment in any form is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. It may also result in immediate expulsion from the program. It is a form of misconduct that undermines the institutional mission of the program. Sexual harassment may be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, physical conduct, written, verbal or electronic communication or printed materials of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s educational experience;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting such individual; and/or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work, academic performance, participation in co-curricular activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, learning, social, or residential environment.

Sexual harassment can take many forms, and the determination of what constitutes sexual harassment will vary according to the particular circumstances. Sexual harassment may be described generally as unwelcome sexual behavior that a reasonable person would find offensive and that adversely affects the working, learning, or living environment. Such conduct can have the effect of unreasonably interfering with academic performance and can create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment, thereby infringing upon the rights of third parties and the rights of the individual to whom it is directed.

4 Fire equipment

Throughout St John’s College there is safety equipment, particularly for use in case of fire. Misuse of this equipment is highly irresponsible and is a criminal offense in Britain. It will be reported to the Police for prosecution.

5 Buildings and facilities

We are guests of St. John’s College and you are expected to show the utmost respect to their premises and facilities. Some buildings in St. John’s are over 500 years old and those who have the privilege of living in such surroundings also have the responsibility to treat them with great care.

If you cause any damage, you will be charged the full repair costs; and the restoration of buildings classed as ancient monuments is extremely expensive.

In particular, you must in no circumstances climb on to the roofs or the outside of any building in the College. Ancient buildings are very fragile. Should you climb onto the roofs you will be excluded immediately from the program and your conduct will be reported to your home institution. St John's College may mount a prosecution against you.

These rules are for your own benefit: each year Oxford undergraduates who disregard such warnings are injured or killed climbing unstable structures. In 2005 a BSAO student fell, sustained serious back injuries and was hospitalized on the first day, ultimately receiving medical evacuation to the USA.

6 Noise

All participants of *BSAO* live in College and there are other residents not associated with our program who live and study around us: the President of St. John's and his family live in the center of the College; the Fellows' residences and studies are scattered throughout. We live in close proximity to each other, and each individual has the responsibility to ensure that his or her conduct does not make life less enjoyable for others.

The most frequent source of concern and complaint is excessive noise: you should bear in mind that the quadrangles act as echo chambers, and volumes of noise that might not cause problems elsewhere will probably do so here. **The most frequent complaints relate to those returning to the College late in the evening, talking loudly or shouting.**

All participants in the program must observe a Quiet Period from 11:00 PM to 8:00 AM.

7 Independent Travel

You should behave prudently and responsibly when traveling independently. We recommend that you travel in groups of three or more, especially in the evening and after dark. Be street-wise: as in the United States, avoid lonely or dark places and areas that seem potentially dangerous.

Some weekends, including Thursday afternoon and all day Friday, are left open for independent travel or exploration. However, you should check the syllabi issued to you at the beginning of the program to ensure that you know exactly which days do not have classes scheduled. Please note that classes **WILL** be held on Friday during the first and last weeks (July 9 and August 6). There will also be informal entertainments on some Sunday evenings for which we hope you will be back in College.

When traveling independently, you must inform the *BSAO* office of your plans. Please collect a form from the *BSAO* office, complete it, and return it to the office before leaving the College. This is for your own security and for the reassurance of your families and others concerned for your well-being.

8 Safety and Conduct When Traveling

You are expected to behave safely, responsibly, and with good judgment when traveling, either as part of an excursion arranged by *BSAO* or on an independent trip. During the *BSAO* study excursions, you must act on the instructions of the *BSAO* staff.

Please look at the US State Department webpage for advice for students when traveling abroad:

<http://studentsabroad.state.gov/html-site/StudentAbroadHome.html>

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 10679: Bureau of Consular Affairs
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Top Ten Travel Tips for Students

- Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required. Also, before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport!
- Read the Consular Information Sheets (and Public Announcements or Travel Warnings, if applicable) for the countries you plan to visit.
- Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends at home, so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Keep your host program informed of your whereabouts.
- Make sure you have insurance that will cover your emergency medical needs (including medical evacuation) while you are overseas.
- Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. Remember, while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws!
- Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers.
- While abroad, avoid using illicit drugs or drinking excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages, and associating with people who do.
- Do not become a target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards.
- Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money to avoid violating local laws.
- When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed.