Interdisciplinary Trip Science Honours Programme

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Dean’s essay

Maps
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dominik.wachsmann@gmail.com
www.hyet-solar.eu
Preface by Sam van der Wal

Dear fellow students,

Welcome to the trip to Oxford! We are excited to see so many new Honours Students who are coming with us to England to visit the University of Oxford. This trip is meant to be an interdisciplinary exploration through the different science faculties and is a good way to socialize and familiarize with other honours students.

After a long 8 months of planning and arranging, the day we actually are going is finally here. For the committee it has been an amazing experience to arrange this for everyone and we are glad to see our plans finally becoming reality. We have worked hard to make this trip as it is today, and during the trip we will do our outmost best to ensure everyone has a good time.

This trip will be a mix of relaxation, sports, extending scientific knowledge, cultural enrichment, and an amazing time with fellow honours students. We will visit the Botanic Gardens, the Department of Computer Science, the Department of Earth Sciences, the Department of Pharmacy, the Oxford Martin School, and of course a short stop in London.

We hope you will enjoy the trip, meet new students, and that your scientific curiosity is satisfied. This is going to be a long remembered adventure.

Sam van der Wal
Chair honours excursion committee 2014/2015

Preface by Filipe Freire

Welcome to the 2014 Science Honours Academy International Academic trip! This year the fourth annual academic trip of the honours programme of our Science Faculty goes to Oxford where we will be visiting the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

The tradition of an academic trip started in 2011 with a visit to Heidelberg, where several research centres associated with the historic university were visited as well as the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). This was followed in 2012 by a visit to Cambridge where various laboratories were in our program, including Cavendish Laboratory for Experimental Physics. Finally, last year we visited the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN and ETH Zürich, a leading world technology university where some key technological advancements for the last 20 to 30 years.

For more on the past trip events read the reports in our program webpage, http://www.projects.science.uu.nl/betahonoursuu, by clicking the Events tag on the top navigation bar.

The ‘raison d’être’ of academic trip tradition is threefold. Firstly, it provides a community bonding occasion for the newcomers to the Science Honours Academy across the departmental boundaries and equally an occasion to get to know some of the senior colleagues also joining the trip. There will be time for organized joint social activities as well as free time for you to get to know your colleagues. Secondly, by the selection of research institutes and museums included in the visit program we aim to provide you all an eye-opening experience to the challenges of a research career in science and the increasing role that inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches are playing in leading edge research areas at present. Finally, we aim to
expose you to the stimulating multi-cultural environment characteristic of most international scientific research centres. This environment is a great stimulus for the thinking `out of the box’ perspective essential for new cutting edge innovations.

In this information guide you will find all details about the complete programme of our visit to Oxford, requirements about what you are expected to bring, which expenses are covered by the honours programme and by yourself, hotspots in Oxford and information about the Dean’s essay. As an additional highlight this year - provision has been made for a free afternoon in London, before returning back to the Netherlands.

The visit to Oxford and London was possible by enthusiastic and committed work of the organizing committee made up by Bob Ammerlaan (phys), Daniël ten Brave (chem), Masoud Shahabedza (phar), Denise Swanborn (bio), Kirsten Timmerman (bio), Mathilde Vissers (bio) and Samuel van der Wal (cs and committee chair). You will get to know all of them during the trip.

The organizing committee and myself are looking forward to welcome you on the morning of Tuesday November 18th to share together this journey of discovery into the world of the fundamental interactions in nature and leading technological advancements into new energies, communication, and ways to help us to live a better and healthier life.

November 2014
Filipe Freire
Coordinator
Science Honours Academy

The Committee – who are we?

An interdisciplinary trip to Oxford doesn’t organize itself. Therefore, a committee of 7 enthusiastic members has been set up to arrange everything, assisted by the Honours coordinator Filipe Freire. This year, the committee is chaired by Sam van der Wal (Computer Sciences), and furthermore consists of Denise Swanborn (Biology), Masoud Sahebzada (Pharmacy), Mathilde Vissers (Biology), Bob Ammerlaan (Physics), Daniël den Brave (Chemistry) and Kirsten Timmerman (Biology). Quite remarkable is that the entire committee shares an exceptional affinity for paprika, as can be seen in the picture below.

If you have any questions or remarks during the trip, don’t hesitate to approach us! That’s what we are for 😊 You can recognize the committee by their black sweaters.
General information

Insurance

A group insurance has not been arranged through the faculty. Therefore, it is your own responsibility to make sure you are insured in England.

Currency

In England the pound sterling is being used. At most locations, you can pay by card with Maestro logo. This mostly yields to a better exchange rate than withdraw money from a cash machine. The current exchange rate is about:

\[ € 1,- = £ 0.77 \]

or equivalently:

\[ £ 1,- = € 1.30 \]

Climate

In November it is usually quite cold, temperatures may not reach 15 °C (6-9°C). So please be sure to bring warm clothing!

Socket

In England the sockets are different from ours (see figure 1). A universal plug can be useful.

Important Details

Hostel

YHA Oxford
2A Botley Rd,
Oxford OX2 0AB,
England
Phone: +44 845 371 9131

Emergency dials

Police
999 or 112
Fire department
999 or 112
Ambulance
999 or 112

Oxford trip committee

If you have any problem let us know by dialling one of the follow numbers:

Masoud Sahebzada: +31 63 09 40 377
Kirsten Timmerman +31 63 04 99 609
Sam van der Wal +31 65 23 44 641
Denise Swanborn +31 62 34 53 291
Daniël den Brave +31 61 12 08 676
Bob Ammerlaan +31 61 01 02 600
Mathilde Vissers +31 61 92 70 105

Figure 1: English plug and socket.
Packing list

Make sure not to forget the following:

- Lunch for the first day
- **Passport or ID** (that matches the information you sent us)
- Insurance card
- Bankcard or credit card
- Cash money
- Student card
- Books/magazines
- Games
- Mobile phone
- Mp3 player
- Camera
- Chargers
- Backpack
- Rain clothing or umbrella
- Normal clothing
- Pyjamas
- Toothbrush, shampoo etc.
- Medication
- Towels
- Pen and paper
- Earplugs
- Maps
- English plug
- Addresses to send postcards to
- Programme booklet

Room division

*The numbers are the hostel’s room numbers.*

**Guys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room 110</th>
<th>Room 111</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Valk</td>
<td>Ragnar Groot Koerkamp</td>
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<td>Lieven Folkertsma</td>
<td>Joost Houben</td>
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<td>Hugo McGurran</td>
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<td>Dario Cramer</td>
<td>Dieter Stoker</td>
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<td>Eric Marcus</td>
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<td>Mark Mangnus</td>
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<td>Jeroen Meulenbrugge</td>
<td>Ferenc Balla</td>
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<td>Jonathan Mertens</td>
<td>Bastiaan de Graaf</td>
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Counting the participants

During the trip, we will have to check a few times if the group is complete. We will do so through the following system: the group has been divided into seven smaller groups, all of which containing one committee member. You will be counted by the committee member in your group. Make sure to be on time and approach the committee member when we need to count, so we can spend as little time as necessary on this. The group division can be found below.

**Bob** (+31610102600)  
**Kirsten** (+31630499609)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room 113</th>
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<td>Melanie Balhuizen</td>
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<td>Carmen Yap</td>
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**Programme excursion**

**Tuesday 18 November**

- 08:00 Gathering on Utrecht, Jaarbeursplein
- 08:30 Departure from Utrecht
- 18:00 Arrival in Oxford (*local time*)
- 19:15 Dinner at YHA (Youth hostel)
- 21:00 Bonding game – Pub Quiz

**Wednesday 19 November**

- Between 7:30 and 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:15 Bus departs
- 10:00 Lectures at the Department of Computer Science
- 12:00 Lunch at the department
- 13:00 College Tour Computer Science
- 13:30 Departure for the Department of Earth Sciences
- 17:15 Drive back to the hostel
- 18:45 Dinner at YHA
  
  *Free evening*
Thursday 20 November

Between 7:30 - 8:00 breakfast
8:15 Bus departs
9:00 Lectures at the Department of Pharmacy
12:30 Lunch at the department
-Fee-
14:30 Meet up at the Oxford Martin School
15:30 Free or (optional ) Seminar at the Oxford Martin School on
21st Century: What’s New?”. Dr Ellie Barnes and Dr John Frater will
be speaking on HIV and Hepatitis

18:45 Dinner at YHA
19:45 Departure for the evening activity
22:45 Back to hostel

Friday 21 November

Between 7:30 and 9:00 Breakfast
9:15 Departure for the botanical garden
10:00 Botanical garden tours
11:30 Departure for London
-Fee-
22:45 Meet up with group at Victoria Embankment
23:15 Drive Back to Utrecht

Saturday 22 November

9:00 Arrival at Utrecht, Jaarbeursplein (local time)

General information about the University of Oxford

The University of Oxford is a collegiate research university. While
having no known date of foundation, there is evidence of teaching
as far back as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-
speaking world, and the world's second-oldest surviving university.
It grew rapidly from 1167 when Henry II banned English students
from attending the University of Paris. After disputes between stu-
dents and Oxford townsfolk in 1209, some academics fled northeast
to Cambridge, where they established what became the University
of Cambridge.

The University is made up from a variety of institutions, including 38
constituent colleges and a full range of academic departments
which are organised into four Divisions. All the colleges are self-
governing institutions as part of the University, each controlling its
own membership and with its own internal structure and activities.
Being a city university, it does not have a main campus; instead, all
the buildings and facilities are scattered throughout the metropoli-
tan centre.

Oxford has been among the world's top ten universities in different
league tables, and regularly competes with Cambridge for the first
place in UK. In particular, it had held the number one position in the
Times Good University Guide for eleven consecutive years, and has
also maintained its 1st place in “Clinical, Pre-Clinical & Health” of the
THE World University Rankings for three consecutive years.

Moreover, the University has been recognised as among the world's
"six super brands" by the Times World Reputation Rankings since
2011 when the first time such a league table was released.
Botanical Garden Groups

As you know during the Tour through the botanical garden the group will be split in two.

**Biology Tour**

**Committee members accompanying this tour:** Kirsten, Mathilde and Masoud

*Note that the committee member of your group is not necessarily the same person as the committee member accompanying this tour!*

Melanie Balhuizen  Rian Stoffelen
Louise Franssen  Dieter Stoker
Filipe Freire  Matthijs Timmermans
Erik Hebels  Jeshua Tromp
Moska Hellamand  Sietske van Bentum
Michelle Heuvelmans  Constantijn van der Poel
Jessy Hollander  Malou van der Sluis
Noeri Huisman  Rik van der Stelt
Hylke Kortenbosch  Timo van Eldijk
Wendy Lichtenaauer  Sanne van Kuijk
Matthijs Lip  Claudia van Lier
Maryam Lyousoufi  Simon Veldkamp
Hugo McGurran  Myrddin Verheij
Jeroen Meulenbrugge  Xiaochun Wang
Thomas Nguyen  Nikki Werkman
Casper Peeters  Cas Widdershoven
Jan Posthoorn  Carmen Yap
Lotte Pronk  Cor van den Berg
Tom Roth
SohaSafa
Anne Snijders

**Chemistry Tour**

**Committee members accompanying this tour:** Bob, Daniël, Denise and Sam

*Note that the committee member of your group is not necessarily the same person as the committee member accompanying this tour!*

Ferenc Balla  Jonathan Mertens
Alex ben Hassine  Johannes Michorius
Dario Cramer  Thomas Mons
Bastiaande Graaf  Pieter-Bart Peters
Esmee de Jong  Albert Pool
Lieven Folkertsma  Carla PouCasellas
Yannick Geertzema  Guy Shomroni
Rineke Gordijn  Lotte Spanjers
Ragnar Groot Koerkamp  Djurre Tijsma
Joren Harms  Kim Valk
Nienke Hesen  Cody van Beek
Joost Houben  Renier van Neer
Jeroen Huijben  Sophie van Schelt
George Jacob  Laurens Vedder
Jonas Jonker  Hendrik Johannes Versteeg
Timon Knigge  Daan Verweij
Marieke Kuijk  Koen Voskuil
Marlow Mackus  Marieke Wensveen
Mark Mangnus  Eric Marcus
Angela Melcherts
Things to see in Oxford

St Aldate’s: The largest and grandest of all of Oxford’s colleges, Christ Church is also its most popular. The magnificent buildings, illustrious history and latter-day fame as a location for the Harry Potter films have tourists coming in droves. The college was founded in 1525 by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, who suppressed 22 monasteries to acquire the funds for his lavish building project. Over the years numerous luminaries have been educated here, including Albert Einstein, philosopher John Locke, poet WH Auden, Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and 13 British prime ministers. Price: £6 Opening hours: 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 2-5pm Sun.

Sheldonian: Theatre: The monumental Sheldonian Theatre, built in 1663, was the first major work of Christopher Wren, at that time a professor of astronomy. Inspired by the classical Theatre of Marcellus in Rome, it has a rectangular front end and a semicircular back, while the ceiling of the main hall is blanketed by a fine 17th-century painting of the triumph of truth over ignorance. What’s remarkable about the ceiling is its length, made possible by ingenious braces made of shorter timbers for want of trees adequate in length. The Sheldonian is now used for college ceremonies and public concerts, but you can climb to the cupola for good views of the surrounding buildings. Price: £2.50 Opening hours: 10am-12.30pm & 2-4.30pm Mon-Sat. Location on Broad Street.

Bodleian Library: Oxford’s Bodleian Library is one of the oldest public libraries in the world, the first of England’s three copyright libraries (the other two are the British Library and the Cambridge University library) and quite possibly the most impressive library you ever see. It currently holds over 11 million items, 117 miles of shelving and has seating space for up to 2500 readers, with a staggering 4000 books and articles arriving every week. Prices: adult £1, audioguide £2.50, library tours £6.50 Opening hours: 9am-5pm, library tours 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm & 2pm

University Museum of Natural History: Founded in 1860 as the centre for scientific study at the University of Oxford, the Museum of Natural History now holds the University’s internationally significant collections of geological and zoological specimens. Housed in a stunning example of neo-Gothic architecture, the Museum’s growing collections underpin a broad programme of natural environment research, teaching and public engagement. Among its most famous features are the Oxfordshire dinosaurs, the Dodo, and the swifts in the tower. Prices: entry by donation. Opening hours: 10am-5pm

Oxford Castle Unlocked: Oxford Castle Unlocked explores the 1000-year history of Oxford’s castle and prison. Your entertaining costumed guide begins the tour in the 11th-century Crypt of St George’s Chapel, possibly the first formal teaching venue in Oxford, and continues into the Victorian prison cells and the 18th-century Debtors’ Tower, where you learn about the inmates’ grisly lives, daring escapes and cruel punishments. The tour also takes you up the Saxon St George’s Tower, which has excellent views of the city, while outside the castle you can clamber up the original medieval motte. Price: adult £9 Opening hours: from 10am, last tour 4.20pm

Ashmolean Museum: Britain’s oldest public museum, and second in repute only to London’s British Museum, the museum was established in 1683. Its collections, displayed in bright, spacious galleries within one of Britain’s best examples of neo-Grecian architecture, span the world and include everything from Egyptian mummies and sarcophagi, Islamic and Chinese art, Japan’s ‘floating world’ and examples of the earliest written languages to rare porcelain, tapestries and silverware, priceless musical instruments and extensive displays of European art (including works by Raphael and Michelangelo). Prices: free Opening hours: 10am-6pm

Magdalen College: Set amid 40 hectares of lawns, woodlands, river walks and deer park, Magdalen
founded in 1458, is one of the wealthiest and most beautiful of Oxford's colleges. An elegant Victorian gateway leads into a medieval chapel, with its glorious 15th-century tower, and on to the remarkable cloisters – with strange animals perching on the buttresses – some of the finest in Oxford. Behind the cloisters, the lovely Addison’s Walk leads through the grounds and along the banks of the River Cherwell for just under a mile. Were you here in the mid-1870s, you would have encountered Oscar Wilde taking his pet lobster for a walk. Prices: adult £5. Opening hours: noon-7pm

All Souls College: One of the wealthiest of Oxford’s colleges and one of several graduate colleges, though it doesn’t accept just any old Oxford graduate. Each year, the university’s top finalists sit a fellowship exam, with an average of only two making the grade annually. All Souls was founded in 1438 as a centre of prayer and learning, and today fellowship of the college is one of the highest academic honours in the country. Opening hours: 2-4pm Mon-Fri

All the above information can be found in lonely planet, November 2014

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**Things to see in London**

**The National Gallery:** You can find hundreds of the most famous and beautiful paintings in the world at The National Gallery. More than 2,000 Western European paintings are on show, dating from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. Discover inspiring art by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Holbein, Velázquez, Rembrandt, Turner, Constable, Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso. The gallery is open on Friday to 9pm and is located at Trafalgar Square. Tube: Embankment, Charing Cross and Leicester Square (Free)

**Science Museum:** The Science Museum is the most visited science and technology museum in Europe. There are over 15,000 objects on display, including world-famous objects such as the Apollo 10 command capsule and Stephenson’s Rocket. Our interactive galleries bring to life first scientific principles and contemporary science debates. Plus, you can experience what it’s like to fly with the Red Arrows or blast off into space on an Apollo space mission in our stunning 3D and 4D simulators or watch a film on a screen taller than four double-decker buses in the IMAX 3D Cinema. Exhibition Road, Tube: South Kensington (Free)

**SOHO area:** Soho in Central London is a great place to find live entertainment, interesting food and pulsing nightlife. Browse the boutique shops, relax in Soho Square, or treat yourself to a West End show, a meal and a delicious cocktail. Soho is also known for its risqué vibe. This is where you’ll find many of London’s sex shops, burlesque shows and gay and lesbian bars. Other interesting London areas within walking distance of Soho include Chinatown, Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus and Mayfair.

**Natural History museum:** As well as the permanent dinosaur exhibition, the Natural History Museum boasts a collection of the biggest, tallest and rarest animals in the world. See a life-sized blue whale, a 40-million-year-old spider, and the beautiful Central Hall. Entry is free but special exhibitions require tickets. Cromwell Road, Tube: South Kensington (Free)
Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is an open-air playhouse built as a reconstruction of the building where the great playwright penned many of his plays. The Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Tour and Exhibition introduces visitors to all aspects of the Globe, historical and contemporary, including Sam Wannamaker's epic struggle to recreate the theatre from the 1599 original. Price: 13£ located at 21 New Globe Walk. The theatre is open until 17h. Tube: Mansion House, St Pauls

ZSL London Zoo: Opened in 1847, the London Zoo is the world’s oldest scientific zoo. Today it houses over 760 different species of animals. Other top exhibits include the Butterfly Paradise, where you can enjoy myriad species of butterfly as they fly around you. London Zoo £23.63, Library: free The Library is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5.30pm. The ZSL London Zoo is located in the Outer Circle, Regent’s Park. Tube: Camden Town

Sea Life London Aquarium: The SEA LIFE London Aquarium is home to one of Europe’s largest collections of global marine life and the jewel in the crown of the 28 SEA LIFE attractions in the UK and Europe. Situated in the heart of London, the experience takes visitors on an immersive and interactive journey along the Great Oceanic Conveyor. Price 16£ open until 19h, the aquarium is located at Riverside Building. Tube: Waterloo, Westminster, Embankment, Charing Cross.

Westminster Abbey and Big Ben: Just a short walk from the Thames, Westminster Abbey is a must-see and a significant structure in British history. This beautiful gothic church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site popular with many visitors to London. Complete with paintings, stained glass windows and other religious artefacts, Westminster Abbey owns the most important collection of monumental sculpture anywhere in Britain. Price 18£. Tube: Westminster and St James’s Park. The Abbey can be found on the south side of Parliament Square.

The tower of London: The Tower of London is one of the world’s most famous fortresses and has seen service as royal palace, prison, armoury and even a zoo. The ancient stones hold within them dark secrets, as fortified vaults shine with priceless jewels and historic uniformed Beefeaters stroll
The Dean’s Essay

Dean’s Essay Guidelines:

The essay should consist at most about one A4 page with font 12.

After this visit to Oxford there are several points that you are expected to cover in your dean’s essay together with your assigned pair:

1- Reflect on your thoughts, together with your assigned pair, on interdisciplinary. Have your views on interdisciplinary changed after the trip to Oxford? If yes, which events, factors or research topic (select at most two) did you find most inspiring or eye opening? If not, what did not go according to your expectations or whatever other motive contributed to such non stimulating perception of the visit?

2- Brainstorm with your assigned pair on a particular interdisciplinary project or research question that you were inspired to think about after this visit and outline in writing the ideas on a project that resulted from this discussion on the essay.

3- From what you learned from this visit what aspect of interdisciplinary would you think would be worthwhile to be development and implemented on the Interdisciplinary module of the Science Honours Academy and suggest activities that can be integrate into the module.

4- Write down the question you asked as pair during one of the presentations and the answer you received to this question.